

The Literary Digest

A WEEKLY COMPENDIUM OF THE CONTEMPORANEOUS THOUGHT OF THE WORLD.

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A NERVE IS

"A cord-like structure composed of delicate filaments by which sensations or stimulative impulses are transmitted to and from the brain or other organs."

—Standard Dictionary.

NERVOUS PROSTRATION IS

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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

CLEVELAND, THE "STRONG MAN."

MR. CLEVELAND'S record in Presidential office is that of a strong personality arousing the bitterest antagonism and most devoted support. As the close of his second term approaches a striking amount of press criticism appears, based on the idea that Mr. Cleveland has perilously expanded the powers of the national Executive. There is a disposition in some quarters to press the claims of Mr. Olney, Secretary of State, for distinction in this regard above those of the President, particularly since his declaration that the recognition of Cuban independence rests exclusively with the President. The *Springfield Republican* (Ind.) accounts Mr. Olney the most conspicuous figure in the Cabinet: as Attorney-General he advised the course which the President adopted toward Hawaii; he decided the Government's attitude toward the anti-trust law, and he devised a means for the Government to intervene at Chicago in the railroad strikes; as Secretary of State, he initiated the Venezuelan policy of the Administration, and now he has checkmated the Cuban agitators in Congress. *The Republican's* utterances regarding the changing relations of the Presidency to democracy are equally pertinent:

"The issue, considered in its broadest sense, which Mr. Cleveland's Administration has raised in claiming, with such doubtful warrant in both constitutional law and precedents—the exclusive power to recognize new governments—is nothing more or less than that of a strong central government administered by a strong executive. It is the 'strong-man' issue over again. If Thomas Jefferson were alive would he not declare the issue to be one of autocracy? Not an issue of immediate autocracy, but one tending toward it. With his extreme jealousy of executive pretensions at the expense of democratic principles he would probably take such a view. Why is it, then, that the Administration's claim to-day excites no more vigorous and concerted a protest? The Presidency under Hayes had grown to be so powerful that he was appalled at the possibilities of the office; and now when a

President is engaged in making this office yet more powerful, at the expense of Congress, the people look rather coldly on, and some members of the Congress itself whose prerogatives are thus assailed approve of the Executive's stand.

"The answer is that, whatever the Constitution or party traditions may teach, the 'strong-man' idea is gaining in popularity. The century that began with Jefferson and Tom Paine as 'advanced' leaders of political thought seems to be ending with a perceptible reaction in certain quarters against democracy. A. Lawrence Lowell, the author of the recent work on 'Governments and Parties of Continental Europe,' writes in his chapters on Germany that of late in that country the theory of autocratic government, as illustrated especially by the present Kaiser, has been gaining ground, and even among the scholar class. In England the critics of democracy are aggressive and eminent, and, as in Germany, they use every blunder and every weakness of democratic government, as exemplified in parliamentary institutions, to strengthen the old monarchical idea. The name of Mr. Lecky, among others, will occur to every one in this connection. There can be no doubt, furthermore, that this same feeling is shared by a certain class, which includes scholars, professors, and editors, in this country. No one in the United States cares to be so open in his expression of belief on this subject as he would in Germany, or even in England, yet the general pessimistic tone regarding democracy that pervades much of the magazine and newspaper literature of the day is easily discernible. If Bryan, for example, had been elected, this class of critics would immediately have concluded that the game was up, and that the 'experiment'—they persist in calling it an 'experiment'—of popular government was an irretrievable failure.

"Why is it that this reactionary sentiment is growing, so much so that this attempted extension of the Executive power by the Administration is apparently viewed with comparative indifference? Why is it that so many people favor more and more the 'strong-man' idea of government? The answer is easy. It is because lamentable as it may be, the 'strong man' can be depended upon for a level head, according to recent experience, more often than Congress or legislatures. In the science of government the failures nowadays are oftener to be found in the legislative bodies than in the Executive. To illustrate, take the case of the Senate in this Cuban business. It is because the foreign affairs committee and the Senate generally act so much like cowboys seeking a fight that the country views with so much indifference a possible usurpation of power by the Executive. If the Senate were more conservative and sane in this matter than the President, while the latter was prancing around hollering for war, does any one doubt for a moment that the country would rise almost as one man to condemn the Administration's present claim of exclusive jurisdiction? The people are not learned in constitutional law; they must judge things largely by results, and all history proves that they will silently indorse all moves to extend the power and scope of that department of Government which gives to them the most safety and repose in their business affairs.

"And it follows, as in a mathematical demonstration, that this tendency in the United States toward a stronger Executive will go on until we land either in autocracy or in revolution, unless the people set higher standards for their legislative representatives. So long as such men as Cameron, of Pennsylvania, and Platt, of New York, compose the Senate, in so large a measure that body will be apt to suffer by comparison with an honest, cautious Executive in the conduct of the practical affairs of the nation. So long as legislators are venal the people will put their trust more and more in governors. In so far as democracy fails to govern wisely and well, for whatever cause internal or external to itself, the 'strong-man' idea will grow."

The *Chicago Times-Herald* (Ind.) criticizes the assumption of

Executive absolutism and the cynical contempt, as expressed by Secretary Olney, for a coordinate branch of the Government:

"Perhaps the public shares the feeling that Mr. Cleveland and his advisers have so often displayed toward Congress. Perhaps, also, Congress has merited this treatment. But we can not regard it as a safe course for the President and his constitutional adviser to openly and bruskiy give the cue to all the world for reproaches against the popular representative body. It savors too much of Cromwellism to be palatable to the American people. We have not arrived at that stage of our experiment when we can denounce representative government as a failure even when it has fallen for a time into the hands of a very commonplace lot of politicians. . . .

"It has become a settled policy of the Cabinet and of the over-nice people to whom Mr. Cleveland is all the law and the prophets on every question to jeer at the Senate and the House of Representatives as if they were nothing more than a rabble of noisy boys; and the sentiment has been so sharply reciprocated that the President numbers not more than half a score of legislators among his personal or political friends. The consequences of this persistent awakening of antagonism are bound to be painful. In the present instance they have placed the President and Congress at swords' points when the interests of peace make unanimity of action important, and they have suddenly raised an embarrassing question of which we are not likely soon to hear the last. All this would have been avoided if Mr. Cleveland were possessed of as much of the *suaviter in modo* as he is of the *fortiter in re*, and if he had not by too long association with indulgent followers cultivated his 'ego' to the danger point."

From the more picturesquely framed editorials current we quote the following:

"His Corpulency."—"While the citizens of nearly every town, city, and State in the Union are holding meetings and calling on the Government to heed the cry of the brave people, almost at our very doors, fighting as desperately for freedom as did our patriot sires at Brandywine and Yorktown; while the Congress is giving expression to the people's demand that the war of extermination waged in Cuba shall cease, His Corpulency sits smiling in selfish unconcern over the spectacle of daily carnage, cruelty, and rapacity going on almost within sight of our Southern seaboard. It fills the fatty convolutions of his brain with pride and thrills with elephantine joy the osseous heart that pumps the fishy blood through his apoplectic corporosity to think that in ignoring the sufferings of the people of Cuba he is showing his contempt for the sentiments of the people of the United States."—*The Times (Dem.) Kansas City, Mo.*

The Will, tho Not the Genius of a Cæsar.—"Repudiated by the Democracy, laughed at by the Republicans, gone stale with the Mugwumps, and impatiently endured by the whole people, Grover Cleveland will leave the White House the most thoroughly discredited President who ever entered it. And he will leave it

with what must be to his fat mind the proud knowledge that he has done more than any other Chief Magistrate to make of the chair a throne. He has wounded democratic government; he has been a despot to the extent of his opportunities for usurpation; he has had the will tho not the genius of a Cæsar. In sixty-two days he will carry out of the White House what rags are left of the great reputation he took into it, and the large fortune made for him by the millionaires at whose feet he has learned to sit.

"No matter what kind of a President Major McKinley may turn out to be, the people will be glad to have done with Grover Cleveland. Even a change of tyrants is to be hailed for the sheer sake of change, since Cleveland, in addition to his other offenses, has become the national bore.

"Only sixty-two days more of Cleveland! Only sixty-two days more of Cleveland! It sounds like the chimes of 'Trinity.'"—*The Journal (Bryan Dem.), New York.*

Autocracy an Issue?—"In our composite government Congress embodies the Democratic-Republican principle, the President embodies the autocratic idea, and it is a cardinal doctrine with Republicans and Democrats that the autocratic idea is to be as limited in application as Executive efficiency will permit. The fall of all previous republics has been brought about through the corrupting acids of wealth and luxury eating into the body politic, enervating the national spirit, creating disregard for principles of fundamental importance, and a morbid desire for peace and comfort at any cost even of honor, a state being sooner or later arrived at in which the way was easy for a commanding intellect, with the wealth and luxury of the nation behind him, to awe the people, themselves in a measure indolent, greedy, and corrupt, into submission to the assumption by him of imperial power and the inauguration of a dictatorship and aristocracy. The masses of the people of the United States have heard so much about the freedom of the American citizen and the perpetuity of republican institutions that some of them listen with indifference or even disdainfully to those who proclaim danger ahead."—*The Herald (Ind.), Syracuse, N. Y.*

"Government of the people, by and for their own best interests, is to be subordinated to a system of government of the people in the interests of a few of the President's Wall-Street friends, seemingly. It remains to be seen whether Congress will submit to be supinely dictated to. In their warm sympathy for Cuba Libre the American people are suddenly made to realize the truth that their own governmental liberties are threatened. It is a serious issue indeed. Its ultimate settlement will mean more for the Republic at home than for the cause of any and all struggling patriots abroad. The President claims the power of an autocrat. Will Congress accede to an unconstitutional demand, to shield speculations in stocks of a dubious character? Time will tell."—*The Journal (Ind.), Peoria, Ill.*

"The truth is, all this idea of prerogative in the President is wholly out of place in our Constitution. He has no prerogative whatever. He is commissioned to perform certain specified duties, and when those named duties are performed his powers and functions are at an end. It was to be forever rid of the hateful word 'prerogative' that we established a constitutional republic to be governed by laws made by the joint action of the two Houses of Congress and the President. In that republic no man was to be above the law, and the President was to obey the law equally with the humblest citizen in the land. We have a government of law, and every man, woman, and child in our broad land stands or ought to stand upon an equal footing before it."—*The Times (Sound-Money Dem.), Richmond, Va.*

GERMAN-AMERICAN PRESS ON SPANISH-AMERICAN TROUBLES.

THE attitude of leading German-American papers in regard to Cuban complications seems to be decidedly anti-jingo. This spirit extends even to doubt in some cases whether Americans are composed of the right stuff for war with a foreign power. Incidental comments on alleged traits of American character brought out by the Cuban question have a peculiar interest to the general reader.

The *Freie Presse*, Chicago, acknowledging that the Cuban agitation contains elements of danger for the United States, appeals to the press to tell the truth and to present things as they are rather than as they seem. To summarize its views:

This country does not confer decorations upon its citizens,



THERE ARE THINGS THAT CAN NOT BE CORKED.
—*The Journal, Chicago.*

hence each man sticks as many badges on his coat as he can get hold of. We have no army worth mentioning, that's why every tenth man is dubbed "Cap'n" or "Curnel." Our own robbers ply their business in organized bands, but we must needs set up a howl about the condition of Turkey and Cuba. We lynch our own negroes, but we are dripping with affection for the colored population of Cuba. We have not the slightest idea of the art of war, our ships are badly constructed and their armor inefficient, but we talk as if all the armies and navies of the world will disappear when we arrive upon the scene, tho our sailors desert as soon as they can reach *terra firma*. We are, however, a sovereign people, and if the majority wants war, we must have it. But do not let us deceive ourselves about its object, for it is certain that we can not deceive other nations. In the face of our robberies, murders, and lynchings we can not make the civilized world believe that we are acting from humanitarian principles."

The *Freie Presse* does not believe that war with Spain would be a mere "walk-over." If our self-created "Cap'ns" and "Curnels" had to meet men of similar stamp, as in '60 to '64, they would have to have time to learn their trade. But in Cuba they would have to meet a regular army, which would presumably be little disposed to give them time.

The *Deutsche Zeitung*, Charleston, likens Congress to an assembly of little children "who want to build up a Cuban republic like a toy-house built of little blocks of wood." "Luckily the President is used to the enormous noise a Congressman makes when he wants to inform the world that the American eagle is flapping its wings," adds the paper; "Cleveland lets them jaw as much as they please, knowing that he can prevent all harm while he is still in office." The *Abend-Post*, Chicago, says:

"Altho the story that 'General' Maceo was assassinated is evidently an invention, it is made the pretext for unmeasured insults to Spain. So-called statesmen, including the clown-Senator Morgan and tragi-comical Charley Woodman, insist that we should take no notice of the right of nations, but throw the glove into the face of Spain at once. The jingoes are of course convinced that the United States could blow over Spain like a house of cards. They do not know the story of the shepherds and the wolf that had grown old. But there is no doubt that Spain will make tremendous sacrifices for her honor. Moreover, among a poor people, such as the Spaniards are now, plenty of good material to form an army may be found; while it is very doubtful that the American people—known to be the most sybaritic people in the world—are fitted for war. . . . Luckily the American knows no false shame. He opens his mouth very wide, and when he shuts it he acknowledges willingly that he has made a fool of himself. Ridicule has never killed any one here, least of all poli-

ticians. There is thus some hope that the war howl will cease—when the new President is installed and the division of booty begins."

The *Seabote*, Milwaukee, thinks it passing strange that Maceo's death is made the object of much discussion. It says on this subject:

"Suppose Maceo has really been led into ambush. In that case he has fallen victim to his own methods only, and the Spaniards are free from blame. Cunning is just as justifiable in war as brute force. If the Spaniards drew Maceo into ambush, they only did what Maceo would have done to Weyler or any other Spanish commander, and what, no doubt, the insurgent leader has often attempted to do. If Maceo had been killed under the protection of the white flag, an act of execrable treachery would have been committed, but there is not a shadow of proof that this was done, or that Maceo was even willing to negotiate."

Further comments are translated and appended:

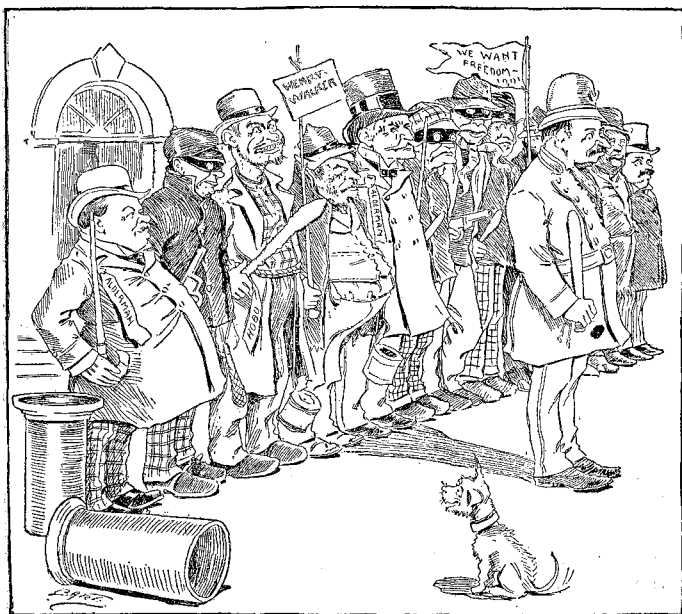
"The colonial history of Spain is written in blood, often the blood of innocents. But what have we to do with that? We will fare ill if we attempt to play the part of protector to all oppressed nations. In the long run Spain would probably be no match for us. But the Senate should remember Field-Marshal Moltke's words, that 'every war, even the most successful, is a national calamity.'"—*Westliche Post*, St. Louis.

"War with Spain would be simply an act of brutality on our part. It is to be hoped that Congress will be satisfied with the mere recognition of the insurgents as a belligerent power."—*Volksblatt*, Cincinnati.

"The Germanic races hate the Spaniards, for historic and other causes. The incongruity of it all is that the Americans do not extend their aversion to the Spanish-Americans, altho these do not love us at all, and only smile upon us when they need our services. The Cubans have so much negro blood in them that their healthy development under a republican form of government can not be expected. It is a mistake to suppose that the Cubans will ever encourage American immigration."—*Staats-Zeitung*, New York.

"If war is declared, every patriotic American will do his best. But an unjust war does not foster that patriotism which is necessary to bring the struggle to a successful ending, and this war would be unjust."—*Rundschau*, St. Louis.

"The Cubans have the sympathies of the Socialists, for we think of our own struggle that is to come, and we sympathize with any rebellion. But we can not see what the Cuban gains by becoming the slave of the American capitalist, and that, of course, is the object of the present warlike agitation here."—*Volks-Zeitung*, New York.



FOR CUBA LIBRE.

Some of the people we could be persuaded to sacrifice on the altar of Cuban independence.
—*The Journal*, Minneapolis, Minn.

Future of the Fur Seals.—Two recent reports from the United States Fish Commission regarding the fur seals in Bering Sea agree that pelagic [deep-sea] hunters alone are to blame for the impending extermination of the herds. Commander I. J. Brice, of the commission, declares that there are but three definite alternatives for settling the seal question: First, that the United States Government effectually terminate the present international dispute over the question by absolutely annihilating the Alaskan seal herd as the animals arrive on the seal islands; second, that the Government permit the pelagic poachers of British Columbia to destroy the seals on their way to the rookeries and in the vicinity, and thus ultimately destroy the legitimate industry of killing selected seals on the islands; and third, for the British Government to enact laws to protect an industry which is now generally conceded in America to have from the outset been of more commercial interest to Great Britain than to the United States. Mr. Brice contends that immediate extermination is humane and warranted by the fact that regulations and the American naval patrol prove inadequate to prevent the slaughter of nursing female seals. He finds that the rules which have substituted the spear for firearms are an advantage to the pelagic hunters, since the seals are not warned by the noise of firearms. Leonard Stejneger, of the National Museum at Washington, in his report, however, believes that united international agreement could restock the seal herds, and he advocates the total and absolute prohibition of pelagic sealing in the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea at

all seasons for at least six years; the total prohibition after of pelagic sealing at all seasons within a radius of 150 miles of the 'breeding' islands, and the total prohibition of sealing on land for one year. The *Philadelphia Ledger*, which calls attention to these reports in view of the bill pending in Congress to authorize extermination unless Great Britain agrees to give the seals better protection, does not hesitate to say that Mr. Stezneger's view "is common sense, and any but selfish present individual interests would approve."

LESSONS OF RECENT BANK FAILURES.

BUSINESS conditions during the year 1896 were marked by a notable number of failures, exceeded only in our history, so far as commercial records show, by the number of failures in the panic year of 1893. *Bradstreet* gives a total of 15,112 failures, an increase of 16.1 per cent. over 1895; the number in 1893 being 15,560. The percentage of assets to liabilities in 1896 is only 59.9 compared to 65 per cent. in 1893. *Dun's Review* gives the number of commercial failures as 14,890, reporting separately the failure of 195 banks during the year with liabilities approximating \$50,000,000. The bank failures of 1895 numbered 132, with liabilities of \$20,710,210.

These reports do not show what proportion of the bank failures consisted of national banks or of private and savings-banks under state supervision only. Toward the close of the year considerable attention was given by the press to New Hampshire, where within 18 months 22 savings-banks failed, involving deposits of \$17,866,791. But public concern has centered in the recent failure of the Illinois National Bank, which, the *New York Financier* says, is the largest that has occurred since the organization of the national banking system over a third of a century ago. From *The Financier* some data showing the real significance of such a suspension are gleaned:

The assets reported officially October 6, 1896, were \$14,539,442. The capital was \$1,000,000; surplus and profits, \$1,315,213. The deposits—bank and individual—were \$12,175,767, and loans and discounts \$9,199,642. The cash assets were placed at \$4,983,202, and of this sum \$2,489,326 was in cash holdings.

Since the organization of the system 330 national institutions have been placed in the hands of receivers. Of this number only seven had a capital as large as that of the National Bank of Illinois: Ocean National, New York; National Bank of Missouri; Fidelity National and Metropolitan National, Cincinnati; Columbia National and Chemical National, Chicago; and National Bank of Kansas City. The nearest approach in assets among these to the National Bank of Illinois was the Fidelity National with about seven and one-half millions. Two others, with less capital, however, came somewhat nearer: the Maverick National of Boston, and the Marine National of New York.

According to the report of the Controller of the Currency for 1895, the total assets, at the time of suspension, of the 330 banks reported failed were \$172,119,412. The National Bank of Illinois, therefore, represented in assets 8.4 per cent. of the 330 national bank failures since April 14, 1865. Thirty-six national banks were placed in the hands of a receiver during 1895. Their capital was \$5,235,020; surplus, \$719,286; other liabilities, \$8,106,646, or a total of \$14,060,952. In other words, this one failure exceeded in liabilities by nearly half a million dollars all the national bank failures for the year 1895. Another comparison may be made by stating that in 1895 the total liabilities of the 26 national banks in Alabama were only \$12,195,875, and of 47 banks of Washington \$16,495,547.

The mere amount involved in a suspension of this kind, whatever the cause or the probable length of time required for a settlement of the bank's affairs, is seen to be no small matter.

National banks, under federal law, are subject to inspection by the Controller of the Currency for the purpose of protecting the Government in its guaranty of the bank-note currency. The Government gives no guaranty to depositors, but examination is popularly considered a valuable safeguard. In the case of the Illinois National, directors had promised to correct violations of the national banking law to which the Controller had called attention; it was the action of the Chicago clearing-house which closed the bank.

Controller Eckels states that the number of recent national bank failures is not so large as to bring discredit on the system. His views, which are reflected in a great section of the press, are in part as follows:

"There is nothing in the character of the bank failures which have occurred in the West and Northwest within the past week or month to cause any public apprehension of a general return of bank troubles. If any deduction is to be drawn from them, quite the reverse would be true. The general situation for strength in the banking world of Chicago, for instance, could not be better illustrated than by the fact that, without previous expectation upon the part of the public there or elsewhere, the second largest national bank in the city could be closed and no other result follow than the failure of institutions for which it had long been the feeder. The Atlas went out of its own motion, paying all of its creditors on demand, and was in a perfectly solvent condition.

"At Minneapolis a bank belonging to the national system has been closed because of a want of immediately convertible assets, the accumulation of a period when fortunes were being made by the mechanical act of marking up the price of town lots. The indebtedness due is not beyond a quarter of a million, and will probably be paid without the intervention of a receiver, as will that of the bank which failed in Duluth two weeks since. When you add to these two the one which failed at Sioux City, Iowa, three weeks ago; the one at Sioux Falls, S. D.; the one at Garnet, Kans., and the one at Kansas City, Mo., you have a total number of failures of national banks in the West since November 1 of eight out of a total of 1,583 located in that section. The percentage, it is seen, is exceedingly small.

"Of the total of 1,539 national banks in the East, only two have failed, and of the 557 in the South, only three. The grand total of failures [November 1 to December 29] has been only 13 out of 3,680.

"It would be remarkable if after the long strain of a political campaign turning so largely upon the discussion of the money question, with an aggressive earnestness on the part of both contending parties, some bank and business undertakings did not feel the strain and give way. An analysis of each case, however, demonstrates that in the failing bank itself is to be found the direct cause of the failure, and while general conditions may have hastened the end, they could not alone have accomplished it. Bad methods of banking, negligence of officers and directors, whether in a large city or a small town, can result in only one thing, and that failure. These same institutions would fail in good times under similar management, and therefore it can not be argued from them that even under a continuation of present business conditions failure will come to any banking institution which has been conservatively and honestly managed."

Last week *THE LITERARY DIGEST* reproduced several editorials on the responsibilities of bank directors. From the mass of press comment upon the bank failures we select the following:

The National Banking Law.—"That the national banking law is perfect no person believes, but that it is the best and safest law we have ever had in the United States is certain. It needs amendment, and certain amendments have been suggested by the Controller which would undoubtedly improve it; but as it is, there has been a much smaller percentage of loss to the public in the thirty-three years it has been in operation than was ever known in a like period before. In those thirty-three years there have been 330 national bank failures, the greatest of which was the Cook County Bank failure in this city, twenty odd years ago. That paid the creditors about 14 per cent., but the average percentage of dividends paid to creditors of all the insolvent banks was 75 per cent., a sum far in excess of any average of state-bank failures.

"As a matter of course, no loss has been made on account of the bank-note circulation. That was safe, a thing that never could be said of state-bank circulation. . . . It is due, however, to the law and to the supervision of the Controller that the bank was stopped in its downward career while yet there was a prospect of salvage, and prevented from becoming an entire wreck. If there had been no supervision the bank might have lasted for months longer and then gone down in hideous ruin, dragging many more with it. This and like instances we owe to the national banking law, which, amended and strengthened as it ought to be, will continue to conserve and protect the highest business interests of the people."—*The Times-Herald (Ind.)*, Chicago.

"A Terrible Example."—"These failures are very much to be regretted, but it is impossible to suppress the thought that had they occurred a month and a half before the election instead of a month and a half after it, they would have been attributed to the candidacy of Mr. Bryan and the campaign in favor of free silver.

This statement is not made to point a moral or adorn a tale, or to convey any impression that it would not have occurred had the result of the election been different. It is made because when the Murray Hill Bank of New York failed last summer, tho the causes of the failure were as plain to be seen as the stars in the sky on a clear night, the officers of that institution attributed the failure to the bad effects of the silver agitation, and their assigned reasons, absurd as absurd could be, were seized upon by several of the gold-standard papers of New York for editorial purposes to show how very injurious to the business interests of the country the silver propaganda was, and to point out how positively disastrous free silver itself would be. Had this Bank of Illinois failure happened at the time the Murray Hill Bank failure did, it would have been used for the purpose of a terrible example."—*The Herald (Bryan Dem.)*, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Level of Prices Must be Advanced to Give Relief.—"It is possible, and no doubt probable, that if Bryan had been elected the same failures would have occurred in Chicago and St. Paul, but at least the country would have the certainty of better times ahead through an assured expansion of the volume of currency on account of prospective free coinage, whereas now there is no such hopeful outlook and no likelihood that the general level of prices will advance until some scheme is adopted for the enlargement of our money supply. The entire campaign of the self-styled 'sound-money' forces was based on false pretenses from first to last, and positive proof of the correctness of this assertion is found in the fact that general business conditions throughout the country are about as bad now as they have been at any previous time since the panic of 1893."—*The Republican (Silver Rep.)*, Denver, Colo.

Commentary on "Retirement of Greenbacks."—"The reports do not yet make it apparent why the Controller of the Currency did not close the bank as soon as the state of affairs was reported. The case, however, illustrates the safeguards of the national banking system. The loss of the bank's assets was promptly discovered before the other assets had followed. There was no opportunity for completely cleaning out the resources in speculations to get the lost money back, as in the case of the Penn Bank of this city. Of the \$15,000,000 assets of the bank, \$13,000,000 are left to pay depositors, and arrangements are already completed by which creditors can receive cash on their claims to the extent of 75 per cent. Nevertheless, the fact that such loans are possible even under the checks of the national banking system affords the most telling commentary on the claims of that financial school which is now engaged in claiming that bank loans afford the soundest basis for circulating notes."—*The Dispatch (Rep.)*, Pittsburg, Pa.

Examiner's Reports Should be Published.—"It is justly complained by honest bankers that the odium of dishonesty of others is carried over to them. This is true, and the only reason for it is that the public has no opportunity for learning who is honest and who is dishonest. If, six months ago, or three months ago, some one had charged that the officials of the National Bank of Illinois were violating the law, and were engaged in dishonest practises, there would have been a general protest against an assault on a reputable banking institution of high credit, and a claim that it was injurious to the business interests of the country. But if one year ago the knowledge of the bank examiners and the Controller of the Currency had been made public, people would have been put on their guard. And why should it not be made public? If a bank official deliberately violates the law, why should not the public be informed of the fact? Why should not the character of the dealings of an institution, which the Government, to a certain extent, guarantees by its system of examination, be known to every one if it becomes lawless? Why should not the depositor be given the opportunity to avoid the banker who violates the law, and patronize the banker who obeys the law? It is very certain that if bankers knew that examinations were to be made public, or at least so much of them as showed any violation of law, there would be a general avoidance of those violations which have caused so many of the national bank failures. We would suggest to the monetary conference the propriety of a provision for the publication of bank examiners' reports as soon as made, in at least two newspapers in the city where the bank is located."—*The Sentinel (Dem.)*, Indianapolis.

Imperfect Law.—"The machinery of the Government went as

far as it could in this case, unless the Controller had taken it into his head to act as if he were dealing with rogues and sharpers. No ordinary examination would have revealed the full extent of the manipulation of accounts, and here was a board of wealthy business men of high standing for integrity and ability who pledged their word that nothing was wrong. Evidently, therefore, some provision is needed in the law that shall make the examinations more thorough and compel the directors to know what they are talking about. The obligations of the latter should be made so heavy that they would constitute themselves their own examiners for fear of the consequences."—*The Journal (Ind.)*, Chicago.

"It was no part of the contract which the Republican Party made with the people to provide that mismanaged business enterprises should succeed."—*The Evening Wisconsin (Rep.)*, Milwaukee.

"If people are to continue depositing their money in banks, some more efficacious means of protecting it against looters than is known at present will have to be devised, or the old stocking will become the general repository."—*The Times-Democrat (Bryan Dem.)*, New Orleans, La.

"This failure will serve to emphasize the demand for legislation such as has been recommended by every Controller of the Currency for the last twenty years relative to the duties of bank directors, but it is hardly probable that there will be any practical result. At any rate, Congress has in the past shown no disposition to heed recommendations of this kind."—*The Bee (Rep.)*, Omaha, Nebr.

INDUSTRIAL PEACE BY CONTRACT.

TO conceive labor combinations as industrial units and employing combinations as other industrial units, both parties to make their contracts under law, suggests the possibility of something like peace in the industrial world. In his address before the American Economic Association (Baltimore, December 28) Prof. Henry C. Adams, of the University of Michigan, president of the association, developed this conception to an extent which met the approval of numerous economists present and aroused the criticism of others. Professor Adams spoke on "The Relation of Economics to Jurisprudence," dealing fundamentally with the definition of property. He holds that according to the spirit of English jurisprudence the essence of property is privilege. By creating a privilege for the workingmen, a kind of property is created. Professor Adams would not attempt to define such property with precision, but he contends that by a method of arbitration, not by coercion, but by collective bargaining, membership in a union would become a valuable privilege, which it often fails to be now, and that when this privilege is fully established, there is really a property right formed which might be put in jeopardy just as any other kind of legal property.

We quote Professor Adams's language as reported in the press:

"Employers still assert their purpose to bargain with individual employees, and the employees still show a timidity, amounting at times even to cowardice, in the presence of definitely expressed responsibilities. Each party appears to think its liberty consists in being a law unto itself rather than in the discovery and measurement of their respective rights in view of the new industrial conditions under which they are obliged to live. Neither appears to recognize that the sociology of the industrial process has rendered collective bargaining imperative in order that due regard may be paid to the instinct of individualism by which both are impelled.

"The one thing needed is a true analysis of the situation and a satisfactory exposition of the advantages that would accrue from the labor contract. This service is the high privilege of economy, but it must be an economy that rests on history, that is motivated by a passion for liberty, and that is directed and limited by a knowledge of jurisprudence.

"Of the labor contract itself little can be said with confidence. It is likely that it will provide for determining pay for the work after the work is done; that it will secure to each worker an in-

dustrial home; that it will provide for a board of arbitration in each industry. This, indeed, in all probability will be its most significant clause, and it is likely that the by-laws of this court of arbitration and the decision which it renders upon such questions as are presented to it will, through a process of natural selection, eventually come to be a common law of labor rights.

"I can not refrain from suggesting in this connection, tho it be foreign to my present purposes, that arbitration thus established would result in a valued possession or privilege of the worker, and on this account he would become a responsible party in the world of industrial association. He would be the proprietor of the rights which the board of arbitration defined.

"The theory of property adjusted to the needs of our time is of a dual character. It must first express the rights of individuals associated together in an industrial unit; it must next express the duties of these industrial units to the public at large. The former constitutes the labor problem and the test of its solution should be freedom for the individual to realize himself. The latter constitutes the monopoly problem, and should aim at a just price and the preservation of industrial mobility. Provided these rights can be discovered and expressed in such a manner that they may be incorporated into contract on the one hand and in legislative enactments on the other, there is no reason in the nature of the case why harmony can not be restored to the industrial world and why the science of political economy should not recover its symmetry and form, of which it has been deprived by the trenchant criticisms of the last fifty years."

In the discussion which followed the president's address, Professor Hadley, of Yale, held that Professor Adams did not do justice to tendencies of the recent past, that perpetual succession and monopoly are not characteristic of modern corporations alone, and that the tendency of property is, in spite of corporations, to diffusion, especially in the matter of incomes. Professor Giddings, of Columbia, maintained that ethically there is a property belonging to the workingman not yet recognized by law; that when a man has been for a term of years a faithful employee of a miserly employer there is a distinct unrequited service; and that this service can be recognized by law. Professor Cummings, of Harvard, insisted that what was good economics was good ethics and *vice versa*. He thought that there is an unfortunate tendency to shift burdens upon corporations, and he would deprecate any further movement to invest the laborer with rights against corporations without laying upon the unions corresponding obligations. While admitting all the dangers to property from the standpoint of corporations, he held that the unions of workingmen should have responsibilities, legal and financial, as well as the corporations.

WOMAN-SUFFRAGE IN THE WEST.

IT appears that besides securing a grant of full suffrage through the adoption of a constitutional amendment in Idaho, women were successful candidates for office in three States at the recent election. The elevation of Mrs. Martha Hughes Cannon to the State Senate in Utah has attracted most attention. Her husband was the Republican candidate, but Mrs. Cannon on the opposition ticket defeated him by about 2,600 votes. No woman, we believe, has reached a higher political office in the United States.

Women were elected members of the lower branch of the state legislature in Colorado a few years ago; the recent election sends three women to the Assembly: Mrs. Evangeline Heartz, Mrs. Olive C. Butler, and Mrs. M. A. B. Conine. The election in Colorado also makes Grace Espey Patton state superintendent of public instruction.

Election reports from Illinois show that Estelle M. Davison was the successful candidate for county attorney of Brown county.

Offsetting these gains to some extent, a constitutional amendment granting equal suffrage to women in California was defeated at the November election.

These facts renew press discussion of woman-suffrage in theory and practise. Numerous "sound-money" journals have held up

the far-Western women politicians as horrible examples of Bryanism. On the other hand some Eastern journals have been informed that Colorado women are sick of politics, and others have actually figured out that the women of Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah were in fact conservatively arrayed on McKinley's side. Colorado papers point out the absurdity of arguing from a prejudiced standpoint on the justice of a general principle, by referring to the fact that when McIntire, Republican, was elected governor of the State to succeed Waite, the present critics praised Colorado women for redeeming the State. The *Denver Republican* considers the large liberty given woman as a mark of high civilization:

"Follow the path which leads from England toward the West, and it will be found that it is an ascent toward higher ideas of women and a larger liberty for them both personally and in respect of their property rights. Thus we see that in these particulars the United States as a whole stands on a higher plane than Great Britain. But the path does not cease to ascend when it strikes the American shore. Its course is still upward as well as westward. In the middle West there is in respect of property rights greater liberty for women than in the Atlantic States. In Colorado a married woman has absolute control of her own property, if not of her husband's also. Women can ask no more of the law of Colorado than they received, for there is nothing more to give if equality is to be maintained."

The *Denver News*, speaking from experience with equal suffrage in the State, says, in part:

"As a matter of fact, women will never vote unanimously upon one side of any question, any more than men will. They will be divided in opinion, like any other class of citizens. They will be affected by all the causes that affect the opinions of any voter. They must secure their information on economic and political questions through the same sources, the rostrum and the press. The marked benefit of equal suffrage is that women are incited to secure this information. There is no political meeting in Colorado in which at least half the audience, and sometimes more, is not composed of women. Women have discussed the issues of the past campaign with as much intelligence as the older voters. Some great political leaders there are in Colorado who have made the financial question the study of a lifetime, who are better informed upon it than any others. But considering the average voters, the women will be found as well informed as the men. The same is true of local questions. Women are as much interested in the Denver charter, and in every species of beneficial legislation in the State, as the men—perhaps more so on an average. An increasing influence goes out from the women in their clubs and their homes, calling for good legislation and good government. The increase in the intelligence of the women of the State in regard to all these subjects, since they received the ballot, has been simply astonishing. . . .

"Suffrage in Colorado has come to stay. The women of the State cast a fuller vote on last election day than on any previous one. There has never been any question in Colorado as to the fact that the women voted in as large proportion as the men and sometimes larger. There doubtless are some women who do not value the ballot, or use it, just as there are some men. But the great body of women in the State value the right of suffrage, and would resent any attempt to take it away from them sufficient to warn any unlucky politician from the experiment. There is no doubt that some women have become discouraged in their at-



MRS. MARTHA H. CANNON,
State Senator-Elect, Utah.

tempts to secure reform, and have said that equal suffrage could achieve nothing. They did not realize what they had attempted when they began. That is a common feeling at times with every one who engages in reform work. There are not wanting those who say that representative government itself is a failure. And there were not wanting threats in New York during the last campaign that if the election went against the desire of that section of the country, representative government, as typified in that election, would be overthrown. But there are no arguments against equal suffrage which do not obtain with equal force against any suffrage at all."

The Herald, Salt Lake City, Utah, says:

"The great objection to woman-suffrage is prejudice, and nothing else. In half of the families of the land it is the wife who really administers the income of the family and makes it go much farther than the husband possibly could. Few married men take any important step without consulting their wives and getting their opinion and judgment. Why shouldn't their opinion and judgment be sought on public matters? It would be absolutely impossible for women to be greater failures in office than many men are. It would also be an impossibility for women to follow political leaders more blindly than men do. Herein they will perhaps always be the superiors of the men."

We also quote the *San Francisco Post* on the result of the amendment campaign in California:

"The only conspicuous paper in the State which opposed the adoption of the amendment was *The Chronicle*, and that journal's opposition was so mild as to scarcely attract attention. The truth about this matter probably is, that the women of California defeated the amendment themselves. There is little question that the men submitted the proposition to their wives, mothers, and sweethearts. We know for a fact that that was generally done in this city. We know, also, that hereabouts the ladies told their male friends that if given the franchise they would not vote. In our judgment it is not the men of California upon whom the woman-suffragists should concentrate their efforts. They should educate their own sex to demand the ballot. When that is done, the rest will be easy. With the women all on one side the men will not be long in capitulating."

PROPOSED CHARTER FOR GREATER NEW YORK.

THE press throughout the country takes the liveliest kind of interest in the plan of municipal government which is being formulated for Greater New York. By the terms of an act of legislature, the consolidation of New York, Brooklyn, Long Island City, and several outlying districts [estimated population 3,195,000; area 359.75 square miles. Map in *THE LITERARY DIGEST*, April 11] is to be effected January 1, 1898. A commission of fifteen members, appointed by Governor Morton and including a number of mayors and state officers, has been at work for several months drafting a charter for the new municipality. This draft is to be submitted to the legislature February 1 for adoption. It is generally assumed that the Republican administration of the State is in touch with the commission and will substantially accept its plan. A revised draft of the main provisions of the proposed charter was made public by the commission late last month, and public hearings on it are being held. It provides, in brief, for—

Consolidation under the name of the City of New York. This city will be composed of five boroughs, called Manhattan, The Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Richmond, each borough having borough boards, supplemented by 22 local improvement boards confined to state senatorial districts. The government of the greater city is vested in the new corporation created (which assumes the debts and takes practically all the property of the consolidated municipality), and in a "Municipal Assembly."

The Municipal Assembly will consist of two houses—37 councilmen and 104 aldermen, elected for a term of two years. This assembly is given all the powers and duties of the legislative bodies now existing in the district to be consolidated. It may

establish additional water-works, markets, parks, tunnels, docks, and various public buildings, but where more than \$1,000,000 is to be expended for one purpose the approval of the Board of Estimate and of the public at an election must be had. The right of the city to its various public places is declared inalienable. No franchise for the use of streets may be granted for more than twenty-five years, with privilege of one renewal on revaluation. On the termination of the franchise the plant of the grantee becomes the property of the city.

The mayor, elected for a term of two years, is made the central and responsible figure of administration:

He is given the power to appoint all the administrative and executive officers of the city except the controller, who is elected by the people every four years. The mayor will have supervisory control over the various departments, and an enlarged veto power upon the acts of the municipal assembly. To the mayor is given absolute power to remove, at will, every administrative officer, irrespective of the prescribed term of his office, during the first six months of his administration. After that he can remove only on charges with the approval of the governor.

The departments of municipal administration now existing in the various sections are consolidated under single municipal departments named as follows: Department of Finance, Law Department, Police Department, the Board of Public Improvements (including: 1, the Department of Water-Supply; 2, the Department of Highways; 3, the Department of Street Cleaning; 4, the Department of Sewers; 5, the Department of Public Buildings, Lighting, and Supplies; 6, the Department of Bridges); Department of Parks, Department of Buildings, Department of Public Charities, Department of Correction, Fire Department, Department of Docks, Department of Taxes and Assessments, Department of Education, Department of Health.

The budget as drawn by the Board of Estimate is to be submitted to the Municipal Assembly, which can cut down, but can not enlarge items or insert new ones, and whose action is final.

Existing police departments are to be centralized in a new department under four commissioners, no more than two of whom shall belong to the same political party or have the same general opinions on state and national politics.

The Central Board of Education will consist of the chairmen of the school boards of the various boroughs and of members elected by those boards to serve annually.

There will be a board of three civil-service commissioners, and a bureau of municipal statistics to collect and report data concerning the working of city departments.

Among the New York papers unqualified approval of the draft is rare. *The Press* (Rep.) calls it "a charter of pure democracy," because the government *in toto* will come fresh from the people every two years. *The Times* (Dem.) finds fault with this opportunity for frequent overturns by parties, since non-partizanship is desirable in municipal government. *The Tribune* (Rep.) commends the report of the commission, but is non-committal on the plan. *The Journal* (Dem.) objects to centralization of functions in the mayor with responsibility "legally, tho not in fact, shared by the legislative body." *The World* (Dem.) indorses the plan as a whole for securing to the city "in a degree never hitherto known in this State the power to regulate for itself those affairs that concern only itself." *The Mail and Express* (Rep.) thinks that the bi-partizan police board is a feature that mars the otherwise well-conceived plan, and it advocates the separation of the Bureau of Elections from the Police Department.

The Evening Post (Ind.) condemns the "machine" charter in part as follows:

"The first principle of self-government is control of expenditures, of appropriations. The new Assembly has no power over these whatever beyond the power to cut down an appropriation fixed by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. It can not increase or enlarge any item, nor insert a new one. It can put in operation no new plan of public work, involving the expenditure of over a million dollars, without first submitting it to a vote of the people.

"Then, too, under this Municipal Assembly, and more or less

distinct from it and independent in action, are several great administrative departments, each with powers of its own. Then, too, there are five boroughs and twenty-two local boards, all with powers of their own, as well as powers which they share with the Municipal Assembly. Was there ever such a complex system of divided responsibility as this? First we have the state legislature at Albany, with sovereign powers over local or municipal matters. Then we have the Municipal Assembly, which in its composition will be simply another legislature, with certain powers, more or less restricted, but all subordinate to the state body. Then we have thirty or more other smaller bodies, working under both the state and the municipal bodies, with some independent powers of their own. How would the people ever be able to fix responsibility for any particular act upon anybody? It would be passed from one to the other in a way that would delight the soul of every political trickster in the city. In fact, nothing more delightful in the shape of irresponsible or political machine rule could be devised. The boys could carry on their operations amid constant roars of laughter, for no reformer would ever be able to pin one of them down to responsibility for a single act. . . . It is impossible to find in this elaborate scheme for divided responsibility anything except a plan for purely partizan government."

The Brooklyn *Times* (Rep.) commends the plan for its maintenance of home rule through the borough system; *The Citizen* (Ind.) says that under it "the mayor becomes the most powerful official in America outside the White House at Washington, and the people will have themselves to blame if they do not select the right kind of men for the office." *The Eagle* (Ind. Dem.) says:

"In spite of the preservation of local identity the various districts will be just as much part of the unified and greater city as tho no subdivisions had been created. The system has been likened to the operation of a number of small wheels within a large one. Brooklyn will derive the benefit of the immensely valuable estates in New York city proper and will be the gainer by the vast financial resources of New York as compared with its own. Provision has been made to secure equality of assessments and of taxation in all parts of the new city. In the matter of the debts of the various communities the Greater New York will assume them all, and also will carry out the obligations of the various sinking funds as a general charge upon the city at large. . . .

"The charter has been drafted under auspices that warrant the confidence not only of the people but of the political power or powers in control of the legislature. The commission has striven, in its own language, 'to effect a consolidation of the various municipalities so that there may be no break or jar in the unity and integrity of the single corporation, and no lack of power and supremacy in its central government,' and this we think it has done in a manner that entitles it to the most sincere commendation."

Federation Rather than Consolidation.—"The most notable feature is that it has in it a large element of federation, in distinction from consolidation. When Chicago took in the city of Lake View and the still more populous towns of Lake and Hyde Park, also Jefferson, with its wide area and small population, they became as completely merged in the city of Chicago as the original towns of south, west, and north Chicago. This city has absolute municipal unity. But Greater New York is to be divided into five boroughs, New York proper being the borough of Manhattan. The four others are Bronx, Brooklyn, Richmond, and Queens. Bronx probably embraces that large area north and west of the city proper, much of which, territorially speaking, is as rural as the forest primeval. In each borough there is to be a separate bureau of each department of the city government, a deputy chief at the head of each bureau. Thus while Chicago is moving toward the consolidation of what little there is left to break the completeness of the unity, namely, the township organizations, New York in its enlarged state has provided for district government, or home rule. . . . It looks as if Greater New York were on the eve of inaugurating a municipal experiment big and bright with promises of genuine reform, and that, be it remembered, comes of having the Republican Party in control in State and city."—*The Inter Ocean* (Rep.), Chicago.

Radical Changes of Plan.—"The feature of the charter of the Greater New York which represents the most radical departure

from the modern tendencies of municipal government is the marked centralization of power in the chief executive. The various state legislatures have exhibited a striking inclination of late years to curtail the power of the mayors in the larger municipalities, particularly with reference to police control. It is true that this state interference with municipal affairs has quite often excited a strong revulsion of sentiment from the electorate, but this does not remove the general drift toward a wider distribution of governmental responsibility among commissions and bureaus and departments. . . .

"The plan for two legislative bodies is undoubtedly a wise provision, judged by past records of European municipal governments, and will afford a wise check upon hasty legislation, while the provision for the election of members of both houses at the same time and their retirement at the same time will obviate the possibility of having houses that are opposed to each other in political belief, and will make it impossible for one party to remain uninterruptedly in power. The plan for a board of public improvements composed of six commissioners, each of whom is to be the head of one department, is the plan that has been in successful operation in St. Louis, and represents a distinct advance in the municipal management of public works."—*The Times-Herald*, Chicago.

A Tremendous Task.—"To lay down the principles of the fundamental law of a municipality which shall include five cities and a dozen or more incorporated towns is a task almost as great as that which confronted the framers of the United States Constitution. They have to provide for a larger population; for more numerous and expensive public works, and for matters which never disturbed the founders of the Republic. It is an undertaking which might well embarrass the most intelligent men of the age. Judging, however, by the results worked out by the commission, the task has not been wholly unsuccessful, and indications point to the formation of a municipality upon and around Manhattan Island that will rival London in extent and surpass Hongkong in the number of its inhabitants."—*The Herald*, Baltimore.

"It is the most interesting experiment of the sort ever undertaken in this country. Some people think it the riskiest."—*The Courant*, Hartford, Conn.

TOPICS IN BRIEF.

It is high time something were done to abolish the 53-cent bank asset.—*The Journal*, New York.

From his own accounts, Weyler must have cleared the rebels out of Pinar del Rio by the simple, but perhaps not altogether satisfactory, method of driving them over into the province of Havana.—*The Ledger*, Philadelphia.

ONE KIND OF PROGRESS.

This age electric, wonderful, sublime, surpassing grand—
Machines perform most all the work that once was done by hand.
No other age, no other time, such progress vast has seen—
They hope to make a senator at Springfield by machine.

—*The Record*, Chicago.

SUMMARY of recommendations of the sugar interests before the Ways and Means Committee:

First—A duty of 1 cent per pound.

Second—An additional duty of about ¼ cent.

Third—An additional discriminating duty.

Fourth—Repeat as often as necessary.—*The Free Press*, Detroit.



LOOK OUT FOR HIM.

TRAMP: "What! me 'work,' lady? Why, I'm a Cuban volunteer hastening to the front."
—*The Inter Ocean*, Chicago.

LETTERS AND ART.

HOW ONE OF MEISSONIER'S PICTURES WAS
"RESCUED."

ALL the world knows about Meissonier's famous picture, "Le Renseignement," which shows Marshal Saxe, accompanied by a troop of soldiers, at a cross-roads interrogating a peasant and making notes of his replies. Here is an interesting little story, as told in *The Century Magazine*, of the way in which William H.



MEISSONIER.

Vanderbilt "rescued" the picture from the hands of the Germans and restored it to the artist some sixteen years ago:

"In 1880 Mr. William H. Vanderbilt was sitting to Meissonier for his portrait, and Mr. Avery and Mr. Lucas were invited by the artist to come to his studio during the sittings, as Mr. Vanderbilt did not speak French. One day Mr. Vanderbilt asked, 'What picture does M. Meissonier think is the best he ever painted?' Meissonier, replying through Mr. Lucas, spoke of two, the celebrated '1814' and 'Le Renseignement.' The latter picture, he said, with a sigh and a deeply felt 'hélas!' was in Germany, in the hands of the enemies of France. It had been painted for the Exposition of 1867, and was bought by M. Petit, who asked fifty thousand francs for it. Mr. Walters [the late Wm. T. Walters of Baltimore] had offered forty-five thousand francs, but a German banker in Paris, M. Mayer, paid the price and got the picture. He was a well-known collector, and his family home was in Dresden. When the war of 1870 broke out, M. Mayer left Paris, and took the picture with him. Mr. Avery had seen his gallery every time he went to Dresden, and knew the picture. The conversation in the studio continued, and Avery and Lucas agreed that 'Le Renseignement' was, indeed, a wonderful canvas, Petit had tried to buy it back, but could not get it. It was thought it would be impossible to get Mayer to sell it, but Avery, authorized by Mr. Vanderbilt, resolved to try. He did not wish to make a trip to Dresden at the time, so he wrote to Mayer that a friend of his wanted the picture, but not as a matter of business. It was not to buy to sell again. The banker replied that he had often been importuned to sell the picture, but had invariably refused; yet, now that he felt himself growing old (he had then reached the age of eighty), and that as after his death his family might not care to keep it, he would take a certain price for it. He added that he might change his mind over night, for he found it hard to decide to sell. Avery lost no time in telegraphing, and the next day received the canvas by parcels post; the marvelous picture was actually in his room in the hotel! A draft on London was sent to Dresden at once, and

the deed was done. Mr. Vanderbilt and his two fellow conspirators now set about arranging a surprise for Meissonier. The next day was to be the last sitting for the portrait, and when they arrived at the studio one of them carried a parcel, which was placed in a safe corner. The sitting proceeded, and at last Meissonier said the portrait was finished; there was not another touch to be added. 'Now you may see me sign,' he announced, and the act was accomplished with a due observance on the part of the company of the importance of the moment. The artist then went into another room to put the little portrait in a frame he had ready for it. 'Le Renseignement' was quickly taken from the corner, set in a frame on the easel, and the three men stood by to see what Meissonier would do. 'When he came in and suddenly saw the picture,' says Mr. Avery, 'he almost went crazy in his joy. He got down on his knees before it so that he could look at it closely, and cried out, "*Oh, mon bon tableau! Oh, mon bon tableau!*" and with difficulty found words to express his delight. He loved his picture that he never expected to see again, and his heart was full.' Of course when it became known that 'Le Renseignement' was in France again, there were accounts in the newspapers of how it had come about, and in Berlin and in Paris the stories were equally wide of the truth. One paper said that Mrs. Vanderbilt, the wife of a multimillionaire from America, had gone to Dresden, bought the picture, and carried it off in her arms. Another said that a rich English lord had gone to Mayer's, and counted out bank-notes on the table before him until he told him to stop and take the picture."

RUDYARD KIPLING'S PLACE AMONG POETS.

"THE unchallenged laureate of Greater Britain," is the title conferred on Kipling by Montgomery Schuyler, and on the whole the phrase seems fairly well justified by the reception accorded his "Seven Seas." Not that the book fails to receive an ample share of severe criticism. Nearly every reviewer has a shy at it for its occasional coarseness, if for nothing else; but none fail to admit the power of the book and to concede to the author an important place among poets. On the whole the American critics are less enthusiastic than the English. Charles Eliot Norton (*Atlantic Monthly*), who thinks Kipling "continues the great succession of royal English poets," finds especial delight in his sea poems:

"All that belongs to the story of man upon the sea—the line-of-battle ship, the merchantman, the tramp steamer, the derelict, the little cargo-boats, the lighthouse, the bell-buoy—has its part in his verse of human experience. And so vivid are his appreciations of the poetic significance of even the most modern and practical of the conditions and aspects of sea life that in 'McAndrew's Hymn,' a poem of surpassing excellence alike in conception and in execution, Mr. Kipling has sung the song of the marine steam-engine and all its machinery, from furnace-bars to screw, in such wise as to convert their clanging beats and throbs into a sublime symphony in accord with the singing of the morning stars."

As there seems to be but one view regarding the "Hymn" spoken of above, namely, that it is the finest thing in the book, we quote a portion of it here (McAndrews, the Scotch Engineer, is soliloquizing):

"Men, ay an' women, call me stern. Wi' these to oversee
Ye'll note I've little time to burn on social repartee.
The bairns see what their elders miss; they'll hunt me to an' fro,
Till for the sake of—well, a kiss—I tak' 'em down below.
That minds me of our Viscount loon—Sir Kenneth's kin—the chap
Wi' russia leather tennis-shoon an' spar-decked yachtin'-cap.
I showed him round last week, o'er all—an' at the last says he:
'Mister McAndrews, don't you think steam spoils romance at sea?'
Damned ijjit! I'd been doon that morn to see what ailed the throws,
Manholin', on my back—the cranks three inches from my nose.
Romance! Those first-class passengers they like it very well
Printed an' bound in little books; but why don't poets tell?
I'm sick of all their quirks an' turns—the loves an' doves they dream—
Lord, send a man like Robbie Burns to sing the Song o' Steam!
To match wi' Scotia's noblest speech yon orchestra sublime
Whaurto—uplifted like the Just—the tail-rods mark the time.
The crank-throws give the double-bass; the feedpump sobbs an' heaves;
An' now the main eccentrics start their quarrel on the sheaves.
Her time, her own appointed time, the rocking link-head bides.
Till—hear that note?—the rod's return whings glimmerin' through the
guides.

They're all awa! True beat, full power, the clangin' chorus goes
 Clear to the tunnel where they sit, my purrin' dynamos.
 Interdependence absolute, foreseen, ordained, decreed,
 To work, ye'll note, at any tilt an' every rate o' speed.
 Fra skylight-lift to furnace-bars, backed, bolted, braced, an' stayed,
 An' singin' like the Mornin' Stars for joy that they are made;
 While, out o' touch o' vanity, the sweatin' thrustblock says:
 'Not unto us the praise, or man—not unto us the praise!
 Now, a' together, hear them lift their lesson—theirs an' mine;
 'Law, Orrder, Duty an' Restraint, Obedience, Discipline!
 Mill, forge, an' try-pit taught them that when roarin' they arose,
 An' whiles I wonder if a soul was gied them wi' the blows."

The Saturday Review (London), however, thinks the above extract indicates "an abuse of technical terminology" that is steadily growing on Kipling, and which here "passes all bounds of moderation." "Why not," asks the reviewer, "have 'Hospital Hymns' like the following?

The inspissated alkaloids with eczema contend,
 But Heaven pursues the comatose, no bismuth can befriend;
 Spasmodic hydrocarbonates with tetanus combine
 To whing thy cardiac meroblast, oh, molecule of mine!"

It sees in the "Seven Seas" "magnificent force and resonance, indomitable high spirits, extraordinary knowledge, and sympathies of the finest temper," but it thinks Kipling "has forgotten his first love, his early artist's passion for pure and beautiful writing."

Montgomery Schuyler (*North American Review*) finds, as most others find, that the dominant note of the book is "to celebrate the British Empire." He writes:

"There is a society in London ramifying throughout the British world, and devoted to 'Imperial Federation,' which comprises a number of august personages; but it may be doubted whether it has achieved anything like so much for its purpose as the poems of Rudyard Kipling. He began to labor at it long ago in 'The Widow at Windsor' in the Atkins dialect, and he made a more express contribution to it in 'The English Flag,' which begins with a rebuke of English insularity:

'And what should they know of England who only England know?—'

In this volume he returns to it again and again, so that nearly half the contents of 'The Seven Seas,' as well as the title, are devoted to it—nearly half the contents in space, and perhaps more than half the contents in poetical value."

Mr. Schuyler deplures Kipling's lack of good taste, which makes him defy conventions for the mere sake of defiance.

The Bookman's review, signed "Y. Y.," is more disparaging than any other we have noted. Its reviewer has examined the "Seven Seas" "with wonder, reluctant admiration, repulsion, dismay." Kipling's peculiar province, "the domain where he was first pioneer and will long remain supreme, is the Brute-Man or Man-Brute, whichever name you prefer." If the poetry from Homer downward which universal criticism has sanctioned be really poetry, what, asks "Y. Y.," "is this new school of blood and iron, of slang and profanity"? The editor of *The Bookman* (we are speaking of the American edition) seems to agree with "Y. Y." He writes:

"The test of the great artist is his power to deal with quiet life in the sober daylight. It may be unfair to say that Mr. Kipling is at home only in one dirty corner of India; that whenever he turns his lantern on a virtue he makes respectfully off, and that his only hero so far is the devil. But it is true that in his hotly glowing pictures we find no deep sympathy with humanity, no intelligence of obscure virtue and endurance, no ear for the clash of spiritual armies. Mr. Kipling has unbounded faith in dynamite, but none in heaven. He can not work without the electric light; with still life Mr. Kipling can do nothing."

Richard Henry Stoddard is very cautious about assigning Kipling his place among the poets. In his department in *The Mail and Express*, he has this to say:

"That there are great qualities in it ['Seven Seas'] as a whole, and that it contains two or three great poems, 'McAndrew's Hymn' being one of these, is more certain, we think, than that a new English poet has come, and come to stay, in Mr. Rudyard

Kipling. He has fine gifts; but while they are akin to, they are not necessarily poetical gifts, for they abound in his prose, and are quite as effective there as in his verse, which, spirited as it is, strikes us as having been produced with a determined and ambitious effort, a careful study to appear careless, a premeditated improvisation."

The London *Spectator* finds the "Barrack-Room Ballads," which take up about two fifths of the volume, "full of dusty and repulsive detail," with "only the faintest ring even of that finer scorn which saves so many of Mr. Kipling's ballads from utter shabbiness and squalor." It quotes the following as a specimen of the worst type of the ballads in the book:

"Through the Plagues of Egypt we was chasin' Arabi,
 Gettin' down an' shovin' in the sun;
 An' you might 'ave called us dirty, an' you might 'ave called us dry,
 An' you might 'ave 'eard us talkin' at the gun.
 But the Captain 'ad 'is jacket, an' the jacket it was new—
 ('Orse Gunners, listen to my song!)
 An' the wettin' of the jacket is the proper thing to do,
 Nor we didn't keep 'im waitin' very long.

One day they gave us orders for to shell a sand redoubt,
 Loadin' down the axle-arms with case;
 But the Captain knew 'is dooty, an' he took the crackers out
 An' he put some proper liquor in its place.
 An' the Captain saw the shrapnel, which is six-an'-thirty clear.
 ('Orse Gunners, listen to my song!)
 'Will you draw the weight,' sez 'e, 'or will you draw the beer?'
 An' we didn't keep 'im waitin' very long.
For the Captain, etc.

Then we trotted gentle, not to break the bloomin' glass,
 Tho the Arabites 'ad all their ranges marked;
 But we dursn't 'ardly gallop, for the most was bottled Bass,
 An' we'd dreamed of it since we was disembarked:
 So we fired economic with the shells we 'ad in 'and,
 ('Orse Gunners, listen to my song!)
 But the beggars under cover 'ad the impudence to stand,
 An' we couldn't keep 'em waitin' very long.
And the Captain, etc.

So we finished 'arf the liquor (an' the Captain took champagne),
 An' the Arabites were shootin' all the while;
 An' we left our wounded 'appy with the empties on the plain,
 An' we used the bloomin' guns for pro-jectile!
 We limbered up an' galloped—there were nothing else to do—
 ('Orse Gunners, listen to my song!)
 An' the Battery came a-boundin' like a boundin' kangaroo,
 But they didn't watch us comin' very long.
As the Captain, etc.

We was goin' most extended—we was drivin' very fine,
 An' the Arabites were loosin' 'igh and wide,
 Till the Captain took the glassy with a rattlin' right incline,
 An' we dropped upon their 'eads the other side.
 Then we give 'em quarter—such as 'adn't up and cut
 ('Orse Gunners, listen to my song!)
 An' the Captain stood a limberful of fizzy—somethin' Brutt,
 But we didn't leave it fizzing very long.
For the Captain, etc.

We might ha' been court-martialed, but it all come out all right
 When they signaled us to join the main command.
 There was every round expended, there was every gunner tight,
 An' the Captain waved a corkscrew in 'is 'and.
But the Captain 'ad 'is jacket, etc.

The London *Academy* speaks of the realistic attitude of the book in the following words:

"Mr. Rudyard Kipling is surely not mocking any one in heaven or on earth when he consecrates his work to the God of things as they are. He means it; he is responsible for the plain report of his own candid sight of things. Such an erect attitude as some men have taken in the face of outer nature, confessing the whole truth, not complaining, not exaggerating, professors of neither optimism nor pessimism, dwelling in no fool's paradise, not desperate, not foolishly cheerful, courageous, without illusion, without ill-temper, thinkers of the thought that comes by observation—that is Mr. Kipling's position and that his character, not merely in face of nature, of seasons, of vegetation, tempests, hunting, prey, and death in the woods, but in face of men and money, commerce, war, slang, violence, wayfaring, and the exploitation of the round world. He is serious, in the only sense that he would consider worthy of practise, of respect, and of attention: he is truthful, simple, and a confessor of the actual. A little paltering with things as they are not, and he would immediately lose the seriousness that is the very cause of his work."

It quotes the following fine lines from the "Rime of the Three Sailors," which it terms "magnificent":

"The great man-seal haul back to the sea and no man knows their path.
Then dark they lie and stark they lie—rookery, dune, and floe,
And the Northern Lights come down o' nights to dance with the houseless snow;
And God who clears the grounding berg and steers the grinding floe,
He hears the cry of the little kit-fox and the wind along the snow.
But since our women must walk gay and money buys their gear,
The sealing-boats they flch that way at hazard year by year.
English they be and Japanee that hang on the Brown Bear's flank,
And some be Scot, but the worst, God wot, and the boldest thieves, be Yank."

The Westminster Gazette finds Kipling's view of life a trifle lurid, his literary manners a little loud, and thinks that the reader who has never killed anything human is apt to feel himself placed on the defensive. The critic of the London *Daily News* thinks that Kipling's poetry means little less than the staying of national degeneration, and the London *Standard* wants his ballads set to music and sung to the widest possible public.

THE NEW P. R. A.: EDWARD J. POYNTER.

THE English art monthlies are, of course, devoting considerable space to the review and illustration of the life and works of the new president of the Royal Academy, Mr. (presently to be "Sir," or will it be "Lord"?) Edward J. Poynter. *The*

Magazine of Art (January) thus enumerates his qualifications:

"It is not only the position of Mr. Poynter as an exhibitor in the Royal Academy which has marked the artist out as the successor of Lord Leighton and Sir John Millais. It is rather the width of his range, the depth of his scholarship, the comprehensiveness of his sympathies, and his versatility in the practise of his art. As an administrator he has proved his capacity at the National Gallery; as a teacher, by his experience as principal of the National Training-



From a photograph by Elliott & Fry.

EDWARD J. POYNTER.

School at South Kensington; as a connoisseur, by his work as director for art at South Kensington and at Trafalgar Square; as painter, by his numerous exhibits in Burlington House; as designer, whether in fresco, mosaic, glass, pottery, and tile-work, by his labors in St. Stephen's, Dulwich, in the Palace of Westminster, and South Kensington Museum, and elsewhere, and in his noble design for the decoration of St. Paul's; as a lecturer, by his most admirable series of addresses delivered during his tenure of the Slade professorship at the University College, London; as a medallist, by the designs for our current coinage, of which the reverses show his accepted designs. Such are the more obvious claims of the new president to the honor that has been conferred upon him. But his merit lies deeper in the wide scholarship which has rewarded his intense industry and perseverance, and which, wedded to his latent ability and to his keen sense of appreciation, has produced in him an artistic catholicity not less generous for being strictly disciplined, not less refined for being based upon a classic model. It need but be added that he is a fit representative of the Royal Academy in public and in society, that he is sympathetic and kindly as he is earnest and energetic, and the propriety of the election will not be held in doubt."

The article, which is written by the editor, Mr. M. H. Spielmann, draws the following interesting (and accurate) parallel between Poynter and the late Lord Leighton:

"When, in 1854, at Rome young Frederick Leighton urged Poynter, younger still, to study the figure rather than devote himself wholly to landscape, and set draperies for his friend to study, he little imagined that their two selves would in due time be called to the headship of English art. Yet it is clear enough that both men took the straight path that leads, opportunity permitting, to the presidential chair. Both, whether they knew it or not, were intensely academic in their aims—academic in the right and noble sense. Both sought out an ideal beauty, each in his own way. Both aimed at the perfection of Greek art; the art of both was decorative rather than realistic; both were and ever remained intensely conscientious, industrious, and sincere, turned aside by no obstacles in their striving after mastery of technic, shirking no difficulty, no complexity of drawing, as so many moderns do, but meeting them honestly and surmounting them if they could. To both perfection of drawing was a goal-in-chief; and altho Leighton most worshiped Raphael of all the masters of the Renaissance, and Mr. Poynter bent the knee to Michelangelo, both painters were heart and soul for classic beauty, and built up their art on a profound study of the history of their subject, and used their knowledge as stepping-stones for all the work of their hands. I do not think I overstate the obligation of Mr. Poynter to Leighton's early influence."

MORE LETTERS FROM GEORGE SAND.

SINCE the extraordinary letters from George Sand to Alfred de Musset appeared (see LITERARY DIGEST, December 12) the Paris reviews have been flooded with further correspondence of a scarcely less self-revealing and otherwise interesting character. It can not be said, however, that they clear up that persistent and singular mystery called George Sand; they merely confirm all that has been suspected for so many years and prove her the most enigmatic personality and the most incontinent and outrageous flirt in all literary history.

The *Revue de Paris* follows up the de Musset batch with a long series of letters to Sainte-Beuve. Seventeen of these appear in the mid-November issue and cover the stretch of years from 1833 to 1845. There is an occasional half-tone, so to speak, of dalliance (it sometimes seems as if "poor old George," as she calls herself, could not write ten lines to any man without affecting a lover-like attitude!); but in the main the Sainte-Beuve section are letters of friendship. She made him, in fact, a sort of confessor-general; and an onerous business he must have found it!

"My friend," she writes in the first letter, "I was thoroughly hideous and mean the other night. Forget it. I am not often so wretched. Usually I bear my suffering with sufficient calmness and resolution enough. Like all true cowards I have the completest respect of courage. . . . It is contemptible egoism, this uncovering of one's ulcers to attract compassion." Yet she is forever doing it; doing it, moreover, with a kind of gusto, and then begging to have her sin forgiven and forgotten! And she is forever quarreling and "making up" with that unique flattery of hers, thus:

"When I cover you with malediction it is the outcome of anger; but, after all, I know well enough that to misunderstand and calumniate you is one of my greatest crimes. In all the race of writers, as Solange says, among those conceited liars whom I so cordially hate and among whom I have found such few friends, I have looked for one only—yourself. Do not listen when I repulse you, and speak not of new affections. If your friendship has not cured me, if your esteem has not exalted me, whose hand *can* help me? Adieu, preserve the secret of my misery. Do not come to see me for two or three days. I must pull myself together. Write to me if you have an instant to spare."

"Do you know, my friend," she writes a month later, "that you are a very queer fish? . . . Upon my word, you are thoroughly

ridiculous!" And, supposing that one reason of his eccentric behavior might be that he was in love with a jealous woman who "does me the honor to take me for a rival and prevents you from coming to see me," she exclaims, "tell her I am three hundred years old; that I sent in the checks of my womanhood before her grandmother was born; that I am good for nothing except psychological dispute which no more attracts men toward me than it impels me toward men!"

Here is more light on the *liaison* with de Musset: "I believe I am incapable of love henceforth," she writes, in July, 1833, "but capable of friendship. That is why I still search for friends." Yet in August she declares:

"I am in love, and this time very seriously, with Alfred de Musset. This is no caprice, but a deep attachment of which I will tell you in detail in another letter. [This other letter was never written, we are told.] . . . I once loved for six years, another time for three, and now I don't know what I am capable of. Many fancies have crossed my brain, but my heart has not been tried sufficiently to frighten me; I say so now because I feel it.

"I felt it when I loved P. M. He repulsed me; I promptly recovered. But at last, so far from being afflicted and misunderstood, I find a candor, a loyalty, a tenderness that intoxicates me. It is both a young man's love and a comrade's friendship. It is something of which I had no idea, which I never believed I should meet, *there* above all. I denied it, repulsed it, rejected it right away, and at last I have surrendered, and am happy in having done so."

Yet characteristically she strives to whittle away the effect of this confession:

"I surrendered more to friendship than to love, and the love I would not know reveals itself to me without any of the troublings that I thought inevitable. I am happy; thank God for me. There are, even yet, hours of sadness and vague suffering for me; this is in me and proceeds from me. If I were to abjure the infirmities of my nature I should no longer be me and would die with terror at the thought of becoming again the self that was. I am in the truest and best condition for regeneration and for consolation. Do not dissuade me.

"If you are astonished and alarmed, perhaps, at my choice; if this union of two souls that, each in its own behalf, denied that which it sought and found in the other, take note, in auguring the future, that I have well-told this new *romance*. Can not I see you for an hour before I leave for le Berry? Try to get away. Perhaps we are in one of those 'cases reserved,' wherein, having an important secret to confide to you, it will be useful to me to see you.

"Now, having told you what is in my heart, I want you to say what shall be my conduct. Planche has passed for my lover. I don't care. *He is not*. It matters much to me now that people scent that he is not, tho it matters nothing to me that they believe he was. You must understand that I can not live intimately with two men who could be taken to have the same connection with me; that would not suit any of the three.

"I have, therefore, taken the step—the very painful step, for me, but inevitable—of 'sacking' Planche. We have settled our accounts frankly and affectionately, and we shook hands at parting, loving each other from the bottom of our hearts, and promising an eternal esteem. I am glad to tell you this, so that Planche may be exculpated in your eyes, or at least justified, of reproaches which have been brought against him—reproaches that I have never cared to inquire into, that I do not mind at all, never having had any to make myself. I should be greatly upset if our separation had the air of a quarrel and justified the bad opinion many have of him. I do everything I can to avoid it, therefore, by stating clearly what my position is regarding Monsieur de M. and regarding G. P. I care little for the opinions of those who place no reliance on my word, and who prefer to believe the bad equally with the good. Such people are either wicked or unwell. I dread the one sort, and I have no use for the other, being myself very often unwell.

"I don't know if my daring conduct will please you. Perhaps you will think me a woman who publishes her affections. But I beg of you to consider that I am in a situation altogether exceptional, and that I am forced henceforth to bare my private life in

full daylight. I will not make a great case for the public voice; meanwhile if it is easy for me to enlighten it upon the principal points, I must do so. The public says I am inconstant and fantastic, that I pass from Planche to Musset, and presently will leave Musset for another. It matters little, provided they do not say my bed received two men on the same day. I shall find myself misunderstood; 'tis a small matter. But I will not be calumniated and outraged, as I shall be if I do not take the initiative and tell the truth.

"So far in the sincerity of my soul, with more or less of strength and virtue retained by it in passing through my unhappy life; these are delicate matters, appreciable only by two or three friends. You know you are the one I most esteem. I will see you or write, so that you will rightly comprehend me, clear me from the stains, and take the right side. I want to feel that, near or far, two or three noble souls move through life sustaining me by voice and sympathy. These are the brothers and sisters I shall find again in God's bosom when the pilgrimage is done. Adieu, my friend. Always yours."

What Sainte-Beuve thought of all this the present revelations do not show. Where are *his* letters, and when is the new and true life of George Sand to be written? In a week or two she invites him to dine with Alfred de Musset and says she will ask Béranger, "who is come to see me and whom I like much"—or is it "love"? That must have been an interesting feast! Then comes a gap of fourteen months, and then this:

"My friend, I want to see you and have a talk tête-à-tête. That is impossible at my house. Be so good as to go to Henry IV.'s College to-morrow between 12:30 and 1 o'clock; ask for my son. I shall be with him. From there we will take a turn on the Place Ste.-Geneviève, and in half an hour I will explain my case and ask your counsel. I have a question of life and death to decide. Help me!"

It must have been the "row" with Alfred, for very shortly afterward she writes in a miserable tone:

"Alfred has written me an affectionate little letter full of repentance of his violences. His heart is so good in all that! I have sent him, as my only answer, a leaflet from my garden, and he has sent me a lock of his hair, which I had often begged of him—that is to say, fifteen days ago; and behold! it is all over.

"I do not want to see him again; it makes me too ill. But I shall want all my strength to refuse him an interview, for he will demand one. He loves me no more, but he is always tender and repentant after a storm of anger; he would efface the miserable memory he has left me of our farewells. He believes he will do me good and he deceives himself. . . . I shall have that strength, I promise you. . . . I am suffering in spirit, and yet quiet. I dream much; I shall be brought to bed of some sentimental book, I weep and laugh at the same time.

"My friend, how good you have been to me, and how dear to me it is to feel myself assisted and consoled by you and all those true hearts who love me in spite of everything! Be sure that never in all my life will I forget the active and indulgent affection you have had for me. If ever you need me, how happy I shall be!

"Adieu, my dear confessor. Write me a little line to tell me all that you will; but if you know anything unpleasant about Alfred, some fit of spleen in which he has spoken ill of me, do not tell me; I have suffered quite enough, and I am quite resigned at losing him.

"Adieu, I am almost idiotic, but I shall recover. I embrace you with all my heart. Are you well? Are you happy? Yes, you are loved!

"Think sometimes of me, and pray to the good God for your poor old friend George."

All which, taken with the letters to de Musset himself, is a singular side-light on their connection.

The *Nouvelle Revue* publishes the correspondence between George Sand and the Abbé Rochet. It is a diverting and notable episode, a sort of ecclesiastical flirtation, in which the poor priest made the first highly philosophical approaches to the lady, who, to tell the truth, makes a very good show of being in trouble about her soul; but he is finally caught in the toils of as skilful and hysterical a coquette as ever wrote compromising letters.

AMERICAN WOMEN IN AMERICAN LITERATURE AGAIN.

MR. C. DE THIERRY, whose raillery at the American woman we reprinted last week, awakens a quick response, not from an American woman, but from an exasperated American man. Hugh H. Lusk is the champion who enters the lists in her behalf (*North American Review*, December); but while he speaks with some scorn of the flippancy of Mr. de Thierry, and gracefully calls him a fool in the first paragraph—"a writer who would seem to belong to the class proverbially credited with more than celestial hardihood, tho armed with less than celestial caution"—he is forced to admit that the American type of woman has, indeed, as de Thierry charges, been very scantily treated in American poetry and fiction. But he thinks the explanation is easily found and is one that does not reflect in any way upon the gentler sex of this country.

He endeavors first to account for the fact that the authorities of the Boston Public Library selected the names of five British female writers and but one American for their memorial tablets. The apparent intention of the committee, says Mr. Lusk, was to select, not those who have attained the highest literary distinction, but those who were "the first pioneers of their sex in various paths of literary achievement." The result seems to indicate simply that the literary women of America had not, in the opinion of the judges, blazed new paths in literature.

As to the other charge, that the American woman has seldom been an inspiration to the American writer, Mr. Lusk admits its truth, as follows:

"The allegation that American women have not so far impressed the greatest writers of their own country as to induce them to delineate types of character that can be recognized as essentially American is one which contains, it must be confessed, a considerable amount of truth. It was absurd indeed to instance the fact that Longfellow artistically represented his *Evangeline* as possessing no specially American characteristics, or that Hawthorne did not select an American rather than an English Hebrew girl as the heroine of 'Transformation,' which dealt with scenes foreign to America; but it is not absurd to ask the question why these and many other leading American authors have so generally preferred to expend their best energies in delineating characters foreign to their own country rather than those nearer home. This fact—for to an important extent it is a fact—is one of the discoveries made by the critic of *The Contemporary* during his excursion into the domain of American literature; and it is the one which seems to have been responsible for most of his erroneous conclusions. He has found that many American authors, and among them perhaps a majority of the most talented and popular, have found their themes in Europe rather than in America; and he has remarked, and with truth, that in doing so the characters they have portrayed have conformed to the types native to the countries in which their stories are laid. It may be said that this is artistic, and the assertion can not be refuted; the point is that it is unique."

What is the explanation of this? Mr. Lusk finds it in the newness of the country. Any view of a people's literature that fails to grasp the history and conditions of the population must be misleading. An attempt to estimate the intellectual or social conditions of Australia, for instance, by its imaginative literature, would lead us far astray. The analogy between Australia and America is a closer one than between this country and any European country. Mr. Lusk proceeds:

"In both, the process of forming a people fitted to make the best of those conditions is still going on, and in neither has the crystallizing effect of long centuries acting upon the people had time to make itself fully apparent. The past history of either country seems as nothing compared with the great expanse of the future that lies before it—the faces of the people of each turn naturally to the future of the country rather than to its past. It is in such a state of things as this that imaginative literature finds little material at home. When Shakespeare wrote in England it

was to foreign scenes that he turned most naturally, and, except in his historical plays, he made little use of his own country. It is true that he made his characters, wherever they were supposed to be, speak as English men and women, but this arose from the fact that he knew none but English people, and so far as it went it was a limitation of his genius. In this respect writers are more fortunate to-day. It is possible for the writer who finds that works of imagination dealing with countries foreign to his own are the most appreciated by his own people to visit those countries and render his artistic work more perfect by making it more true. In doing so he meets a natural want, and satisfies a craving which both in himself and his readers is artistic. . . . In the earlier stages of its development the new nation and its literature will naturally bear all the marks of that from which it sprang, the models for its imitation will be found not in its new home but in that which it has left, and its standards of excellence will, consciously or the reverse, be looked for there. At present the United States, in respect at least of its literature, is only beginning to emerge from this elementary stage of intellectual evolution."

Praise for Another American Painter.—John McLure Hamilton is the subject of an appreciative and well illustrated "study" by Harrison S. Morris in *The Art Journal*. He was born of English (? Scotch) parents at Philadelphia in 1853, and, we are told, had Edwin A. Abbey for a fellow student, and received his first instruction from the late George W. Holmes. After studying at Antwerp, Paris (under Gérôme), and Fontainebleau, he returned home for a time, but finally settled, like so many of his American brother artists, in London, where, since his clever and painful picture "Vivisection," he has won a steadily increasing acceptance. In 1892 his portrait of Gladstone was purchased for the Luxembourg Gallery by the French Government. "His able career," says Mr. Foster, "seems to have been a slow evolution of the especial traits of observation and the sense of color and form, which are summed up in the two famous portraits of Mr. Gladstone . . . and in the pastels of the same great sitter . . . in the portraits of Bismarck, John Tyndall, Cardinal Manning, G. F. Watts, R.A., Onslow Ford, R.A., Herbert Spencer, Alfred Gilbert, R.A., Mrs. Gladstone, Dorothy Drew, Rider Haggard, Master Wolfram Ford, and in the unfinished likeness of the late Lord Leighton. To have painted such a group is in itself an achievement worthy of fame; but when it is realized that these portraits are eminently original, that they have won the high approval of authorities, French, English, German, and American, and that several of them have been crowned with unusual honors, the place given Mr. John McLure Hamilton in the art of portraiture must be very near the topmost rank of modern achievement."

NOTES.

THE poet and novelist, Thomas Bailey Aldrich, is the fortunate beneficiary of a legacy of \$200,000 and a summer-home from the late Henry L. Pierce, the Boston millionaire. Each of the twin sons of Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich is favored with an additional bequest of \$100,000.

ONE of the reasons given for the preference accorded English novelists over American in the latter's own "home-market," is the greater labor and care taken by the former. The London correspondent of *The Tribune* writes: "Mrs. Humphry Ward is among the slowest of writers, and revises every page many times. Mr. George Meredith's refinement of style is the result of continuous labor. Mr. Hall Caine carries a plot for a story in his head for two years before he writes a line, and he makes three distinct drafts of the book, enlarging each version until final revision becomes possible. Sarah Grand has already written her new story twice, and she has taken it to Spain for a third revision during the winter."

MAURICE THOMPSON has no higher idea of Charles Dickens than W. D. Howells has. In *The Independent* recently Mr. Thompson writes: "The pity of it all lies in the waste of genius, which at best is so scarce—a waste made distressingly obvious when we think what a novelist Dickens would have been could he but have written good English, what a romancer the elder Dumas, given the style, the art-power of Maupassant! Dickens must pass out of the list of permanent fames—he is already gone, he was so ignorant and slovenly—while De Quincey will stay. . . . Dickens had not the vast reserve of culture, the serene dignity of one who is a perfect master of his craft; nor had he Shakespeare's divine accuracy of artistic apprehension touching even the simplest human moods. Where Shakespeare sighed inwardly, silently, Dickens blubbered and wailed, and, alas! in the most slovenly literature ever penned."

SCIENCE.

SOME VISIONARY ELECTRICIANS.

IN all departments of invention the "crank" is a familiar figure, but in none more so than in electricity. Here his name is legion; yet he must be treated with gentleness and even respect, for the crank of to-day may develop into the world-famous discoverer of to-morrow; one never can be certain about these things. A correspondent of *The Electrical Review* (London), signing himself "Cable Expert," gives some amusing and instructive particulars about his experiences with some of these people. He says:

"A. M. Kildischewsky of Moscow announces that he has made an important discovery by which the difficulties of telephoning over submarine cables have been eliminated. With touching *naïveté* he adds that he has tried this submarine innovation on an aerial wire with successful results. A bicyclist might just as well say that he intends to reach New York in the wake of an ocean-flyer because he has recently made a successful trip along the Great North road.

"I have met many visionaries of the caliber of this man of Moscow. One and all threatened to revolutionize the cable service by their telephonic triumphs. The famous Cornelius Herz came to our station in Brest some twelve years ago with a magnificent scheme 'destined to work a revolution,' and, incidentally, make the fortune of both company and inventor. Alas! no satisfactory results were obtained on the short Brest-Penzance cable. When Cornelius mentioned the long Atlantic cable the managing director smiled and murmured: '*Mon cher* [My dear fellow], you are dreaming. *Allons dîner* [Let's go to dinner].' And to dinner they went. The next day Cornelius Herz returned to Paris with modified ideas concerning cables.

"Two years later an Italian inventor experimented on one of our Atlantic cables and I had the honor to assist him. He brought a complicated machine which he exhibited and dilated on with all an inventor's enthusiasm. What did I think of it? With diplomatic caution I said: 'It *might* work!'

"In the wee small hours, when the cable was 'clear,' this affable Italian nobleman and myself took possession of the 'string' and worked at the invention like Trojans. Sometimes the signals reached the other end, sometimes they did not. His surprise was as great as his knowledge of cables was small. He swore in Italian, he swore in French, and once, probably out of compliment to me, he evolved a vigorous 'Goddam.' But the machine did not work, and he finally returned to Rome, announcing further experiments for 'next year.' I never saw him again, and rather fancy he has gone to that unknown land where telephones are superfluous luxuries.

"My third inventor I met at an Atlantic cable-station in Nova Scotia. He was a smart Yankee with a big scheme 'to supersede the miserable system of cable-signaling invented by Sir William Thomson.' A pretty big contract! He had so pestered the president of the company that the latter ultimately consented to lend him one of his cables for his experiments. The letter written by the president to his station-manager was deliciously laconic—'Dear Mr. X.—I send you a crank. Fix him as you think best.'

"Thus instructed the manager awaited the arrival of the inventor with his revolutionary machinery. He came. In the course of a preliminary conversation the manager used such ordinary electrical terms as induction, earth currents, duplex, retardation, etc. But the inventor had never heard them before and was obliged to ask for frequent explanations. As a matter of fact this crank had never seen a submarine cable, but with sublime 'cheek' he announced that he was prepared to improve on the marvelous mirror and siphon-recorder invented by Lord Kelvin. Finally after some vague experiments, he returned to New York a sadder if not a wiser man.

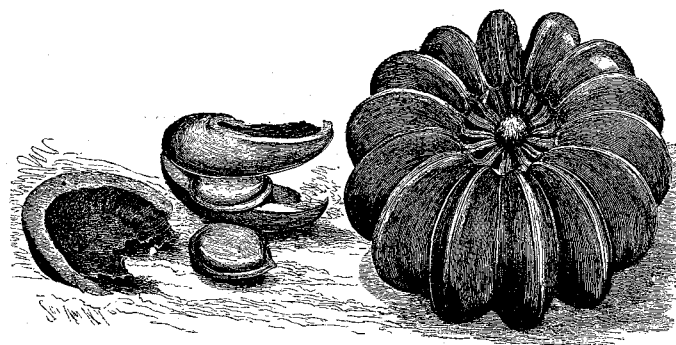
"I am really afraid that the coming Russian scientist has not properly realized the practical technical difficulties that beset this scientific problem. Indeed, it is more than probable that he has never seen a cable worked, for he talks of 'speaking from the city to New York.' This proves his ignorance of the elementary fact that a London-New York line is composed of three distinct sections worked by three separate sets of instruments.

"Poor fellow! His journey to London will probably prove fruitless, altho he will certainly be kindly treated by the cable companies, ever on the alert for something new and good, and usually doomed to disappointment. But judging from the unreliable data on which he has based his calculations, I am led to the sorrowful conclusion that we are not likely to be called upon to hail any revolution in that branch of science in which Lord Kelvin has attained such eminence."

EXPLOSIVE NUTS.

WE translate from *Cosmos* (Paris, December 12) the following concise account of plants with explosive seed-vessels, with special reference to the giant of its kind, the explosive nut of South America. The author of the article, who signs himself with the initials "A. A.," says:

"The dissemination of seeds is effected by a number of different processes, each one corresponding to the needs of the species



FRUIT OF THE SABLIER.

On the right, the fruit before splitting; on the left, broken sections, and seeds.

and requiring a particular anatomical arrangement. Some simply fall from the fruit that bears them and take root around the individual that produced them; others are furnished with plumes that offer resistance to the wind, and are thus carried to great distances; others still are projected mechanically by a sudden bursting of the seed-vessel in which they have been shut up, and which has protected them until their maturity.

"We have in this country a number of plants that rid themselves thus of their seeds by the sudden release of a fibrous spring, to whose elasticity the process of drying gives free play.

"Such is the touch-me-not, *Impatiens noli tangere*, which many gardeners call the balsam, and which casts its seeds in your face in a decidedly lively way as soon as you touch its seed-vessels, whose valves only wait this impulse to separate from one another and roll themselves up with snake-like twistings.

"Such also is the *Euphorbia lathyris*, or spurge, of sandy soils, recognizable by its long, narrow leaves, placed opposite each other in pairs in such manner that each group makes a right angle with the group immediately above and the one just below, which gives to the plant a very peculiar aspect.

"This *Euphorbia* produces quite large three-cornered seed-vessels, whose parts, when the fruit is ripe, separate suddenly with a sharp crack, projecting the seeds some distance.

"But the fruit that holds the record for elasticity is surely the 'explosive nut' of the sablier, *Hura crepitans*, an exotic tree of the family of Euphorbiaceæ and a near relative of the manchineel-tree.

"The sablier is found native in tropical America. It is often cultivated as an ornamental tree, both in its native country and in other parts of the globe, notably in certain gardens in the Indies.

"Its fruit looks, on the outside something like a melon; it is formed exactly like that of our native *Euphorbias*, of sections whose halves, at maturity, separate violently with so intense a report that it has been compared to the sound of a pistol, throwing its seeds to a considerable distance.

"With this fruit a very pretty sand-box [French *sablier*] can be made by cutting a circular opening in the upper part, extracting

the seeds, and then covering the opening. The opposite side is perforated with little holes.

"A sand-box thus made is not devoid of originality, but it is very difficult to keep it, for the time always comes when, aided by the drying process, the sections suddenly split with a characteristic sound. It seems that the fruit may be prevented from drying by boiling it in oil, but, according to competent authorities, the sole efficacious means of preventing all danger of explosion would be to cover it galvanically with an envelope of metal—copper, for instance.

"The violent splitting of the fruit of the sablier is explained very simply by a process analogous to that which causes the two halves of a split stick to curl apart, and depends upon the unequal extensibility of the elements of the valves, which produces the mechanical effect due to it at the precise moment when the sutures, the lines of least resistance, are opened by the progress of desiccation."—*Translated for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*

THE THEORY OF DREAMS.

UNDER this heading Dr. L. Ménéard explains to us in *Cosmos* (December 5) some of the most curious psychological phenomena of dreams, and relates some of the most celebrated dreams, giving each its scientific explanation. He says:

"In sleep, the superior centers of personal and conscious activity are at rest, while the inferior or so-called automatic centers are awake; but these latter keep up more or less intimate relations with their chiefs, and also with the outer surface of the body.

"The relations with the outer surface explain how sensations experienced during sleep may give rise to dreams; they explain, also, how a more or less vivid or unaccustomed sensation, according as the sleep is more or less deep, may awaken the sleeper.

"If communications are kept up with the superior centers, the subject retains a recollection of his dream—a recollection more or less vague, and more or less durable. He can, also, when these communications are quite complete, influence his own dream—understand, for example, that such and such a sensation is the effect of a dream, and wake himself in order to stop it.

"Certain dreams, of which we retain no immediate recollection, are nevertheless impressed on the memory. Thus recollection of them takes place in another dream or in states of somnambulism.

"When we are preoccupied with some problem it may happen that we lay it aside for the moment, and that after a longer or shorter time, when we believe that we are no longer thinking of it the solution appears to us suddenly, like a flash of light. We have kept on thinking of it without knowing it. This work of unconscious cerebration keeps on during sleep, and if a sought-for solution comes to us in a dream, it is but the product of this brain-work, pursued unconsciously.

"Which of us has not noticed that he remembers better a thing that he has studied in the evening just before going to sleep? Voltaire tells us that one night he dreamed a complete canto of his 'Henriade,' which fact inspired the following reflection:

"I said in my dream things that I could scarcely have written in my waking hours; I must then have had processes of thought, in spite of myself and without conscious action; I had neither will power nor freedom, and yet I made combinations of ideas with sagacity and even with some degree of genius."

"It was the automatic centers that were at work in his case, but these centers had kept up communication with their hierarchical superiors, and the recollection of their action had remained with him.

"The most various combinations can be produced, according as the communications with the outer world or the inner self are more or less complete. We may mistake the reality for a dream, and *vice versa*. Reil tells of a person who dreamed about what was whispered in his ear while he was asleep.

"Once when I was in the country, sleeping in a room that had not been occupied for several years, I dreamed that I saw a mouse run over the bed, and that I killed it. Sure enough, in the morning there was the dead mouse at the foot of the bed. I had acted in a sort of somnambulism.

"At other times the contrary takes place, and we are in danger of mistaking a dream for the reality. Except in illness, this illusion is of brief duration, and takes place only at the moment of waking.

"Dreams engendered by sensations of pain often herald approaching illness, and seem prophetic. Conrad Gesner had a dream in which he saw a serpent bite him on the left side of his breast. A deep and profound lesion soon appeared in that part of his body. Galien tells of an invalid who dreamed that his leg was made of stone; some time afterward, this leg was paralyzed. Macario relates that he dreamed that he was suffering from a severe sore throat; when he awoke he was perfectly well, but several hours afterward he had an attack of quinsy.

"In these examples, which could be easily multiplied, there was a clearer perception of real sensations during sleep than in the waking state. Galien's invalid perceived more clearly during the night the beginning of a functional derangement that ended in paralysis. Conrad Gesner had a pain in his side, and it was not until later that this pain was explained by the appearance of an actual lesion.

"The automatic centers sometimes present to us an interlocutor who solves the problem on which we are working. . . . Thus the following dream of Dr. Alexander Bertrand:

"He saw before him a person who asked him questions about the etymology of several French words. After several questions that M. Bertrand does not recollect, he propounded the following: "Do you know what the word *dame* [lady] comes from?" M. Bertrand, after a moment of reflection, answered that he did not know. "Think carefully," went on the speaker. "Perhaps from the word *domina*?" said M. Bertrand. "Wrong! guess again"; and during this colloquy the stranger had the manner of a man who, being sure of himself, amuses himself with the embarrassment of another. Bertrand finally giving up the task, the other said to him with a laugh: "Don't you see that the word comes from *damnatio*?" And this pleasantry, quite opposed to M. Bertrand's serious character, surprised him very much. His astonishment was increased when he woke and realized that this comedy was a dream, and that he alone had done the joking."

"A celebrated dream where a curious and fantastic scene accompanied the unconscious intellectual labor of the dreamer was that of Tartini. This celebrated composer had gone to sleep after having in vain tried to finish a sonata; this occupation followed him in his sleep. At the moment when, in a dream, he thought that he had resumed his work and that he despaired of being able to compose what he wished, he saw the devil, all of a sudden, appear and offer to finish his sonata if he would give up his soul. Quite subjugated by this apparition, he accepts the proposed terms, and he then hears very distinctly played on the violin the much-desired sonata, with inexpressible charm of execution. He awakes, and in a transport of joy runs to his desk and writes down from memory the piece that he had just dreamed.

"Tartini's intellectual work had been carried on while he slept, and the mental image of the devil was a mere complication of his dream, owing to an association of ideas, probably related to something that he had recently been reading.

"Sometimes the dream simply evokes a forgotten image from the depths of the memory. Abercrombie relates that a bank employee found, on balancing his account, that he was short by 6,000 francs. After vainly seeking to find his mistake, he went sound asleep and saw in a dream a man who demanded to be paid at once, as he could not wait. He recollected, in fact, that some time before he had paid out this sum and had forgotten to enter the payment. A similar dream was related by Dr. Liébault; it is told by Marie de Manacéine as follows: "One of his patients dreamed that she was in danger of drowning, when she was saved by a man named Olry. Several years passed; suddenly there entered her house a gentleman who resembled in every feature the one who had saved her in her dream. She was so powerfully impressed by this resemblance that she at once cried out to her visitor: "You are Olry?" "Yes, my name is Olry," answered this stranger, whom she had never seen except in her dream." M. Liébault remarks that such a dream might very well be looked upon as miraculous, but a careful inquiry showed that this Olry lived in the vicinity, that is, not more than 12 kilometers [7½ miles] distant; she had probably met him before, but apparently she had forgotten the fact, as well as the family name of her imaginary savior.

"In such a case that which is produced is the recollection of images impressed on the consciousness.

"As we have said before, the dreamer creates nothing; he utilizes the images that he has previously stored up."—*Translated for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*

THE WAVE OF THE PULSE.

THE poets have good scientific authority for speaking of the blood as "the crimson tide," for the vital fluid circulates not steadily, but in waves that have considerable likeness to the tidal flow. In the concluding number of a series of articles on "Waves," that has been appearing in *Knowledge*, Vaughan



PULSE TRACING OF FAIRLY NORMAL HEART.

Cornish describes (December 1) as follows this human tidal wave that ebbs and flows half a hundred times or more every minute of our lives:

"The pulse is produced by a peculiar wave which demands a brief mention in this concluding article. To fix our ideas we will suppose that we are dealing with the familiar artery which gives the pulse of the wrist. At each beat of the heart, blood is pumped into the near end of the artery and the valve is quickly shut. Very quickly afterward an extra quantity of blood is forced from the artery into the veins and capillaries. This is not the particular dose of fluid which has just entered the artery, but a discharge from the other end of the stream, where a pulse is felt almost



PULSE TRACING OF DISEASED HEART.

immediately after the throb of the heart. The push, or impulse, is transmitted from point to point along the artery, not as hydrostatic pressure is transmitted by an incompressible fluid, but after the manner of a wave. For the blood is not enclosed in a rigid pipe, but in a flexible tube, so that, altho the fluid does not yield to pressure, the tube does, and the end nearest the heart expands to accommodate the extra dose of fluid. Expansion of the tube is, however, followed by contraction, for the tube is elastic tho yielding. The next portion of the tube then expands, and so on, a billow traveling down the artery. When the billow reaches the wrist it can be both seen and felt. It has passed the wrist before the next dose of fluid is delivered from the heart, so that only one billow is ever traversing the artery. The profile of the billow is recorded in an exaggerated manner upon the well-known pulse-tracings. These provide a permanent record of the condition of a patient's pulse which is convenient for reference. Each of the pulse-tracings shown [in the illustrations] records a number of beats; the wave is traveling to the right; from trough to trough is a complete pulsation."

A SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF FEAR.

AN article entitled "A Study of Fear" is contributed to *The American Journal of Psychology* (January) by President G. Stanley Hall, of Clark University. From an advance notice in *Science* (December 25) we learn that his data were obtained from a single one of thirty-two series of questions relating to the child's mind and its development, sent out from Clark University. An enormous amount of matter has been thus collected, and the condensed account of this particular one occupies one hundred large pages. We quote from the advance notice in *Science*:

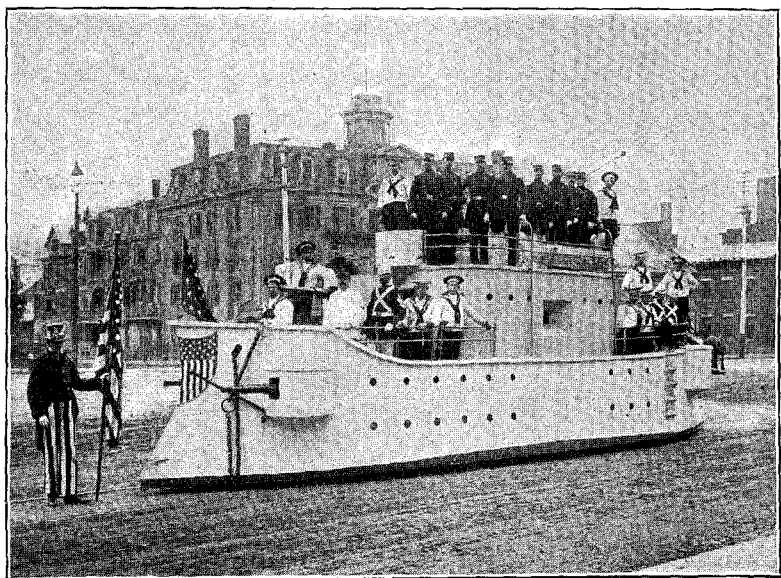
"Psychology may have been lacking in concrete facts until recently, but now it seems in danger from a plethora of facts. The nearly 2,000 people who have sent in returns have described 6,456 fears. It seems that thunder-storms are feared most frequently, and next reptiles; then follow strangers, darkness, fire and death.

Boys report on the average 2.21 fears, while girls report 3.55. There is an increase in the number of fears up to the age of fifteen for boys and up to the age of eighteen for girls, but this is probably due to fuller descriptions from those who are older. President Hall classifies the kinds of fears, and under each heading gives a number of examples followed by a discussion. Some of the fears, such as those connected with high places, with loss of orientation, and with being shut in, are psychologically of much interest. President Hall . . . holds that 'the conscious ego is but a very inadequate and partial manifestation of the soul, that it is a feeble, flickering taper in a vast factory full of machinery and operatives, each doing its work in unobserved silence.' Instinct is much older than intelligence; it is inherited not only from our anthropoid ancestors, but from remotest times, associated with the persistency of cells or protoplasm rather than with a developed nervous system. The fear of high places, President Hall thinks, is a vestigial trace, like the gill-slits under the skin of our necks, antedating limbs and inherited from our swimming and floating ancestors. It would be difficult to disprove President Hall's theory, but it does not seem to follow from his facts. Many prevalent fears, as of weather and serpents, are not in accord with our urban civilization, but I doubt if they will persist a century hence, let alone through millions of years. The three children of which the present writer knows most have not shown the slightest fear of thunder-storms, and had to be taught to fear snakes owing to the presence of poisonous species. Fears of death, of disease, and of the end of the world are among the common ones, and these are not inherent in protoplasm. Children undoubtedly show instinctive fears, but I believe that most of their fears are learned and not inherited."

A TROLLEY MAN-OF-WAR.

THIS unique craft, built as an experiment at Fitchburg, Mass., is thus described in *The Electrical Review*, December 2:

"This pioneer of all land craft is not to be despised when it comes to a question of force. Dainty 'barkers' peep out through her port-holes, prototypes of the smiling faces that gleam from the sides of the flag-ship *New York*. This trolley man-of-war, or white cruiser on wheels, has been dignified with the name of President-elect William McKinley. While her mission is not

From photograph loaned by *The Illustrated American*.

THE WHITE TROLLEY CRUISER "MCKINLEY": A CAMPAIGN CURIOSITY AT FITCHBURG, MASS.

that of protection, so far, she is quite likely to be utilized for that purpose in the days that are to come.

"The *McKinley* is designed to run on electric roads of standard gage, and it is very likely that the queer craft will have many imitations before long. She is, in appearance, a miniature,

to a great extent, of the big cruisers that have followed Admiral Bunce's flag for so many months. Her superstructure is painted green, her hull and sponsons white, her guns and ironwork black. She carries 100 men, officers and crew, and is 37 feet long, nine feet wide, 12 feet high. The lines on which she was constructed were taken from the model of the battle-ship *Brooklyn* by Naval Architect Henry P. Lapointe.

"Originally, the *McKinley* was a flat-car, and she was extended fore and aft so that finally her length from stem to stern was 37 feet. She has a double row of port-holes on each side, and as she advances toward you, you see the sullen countenance of two grim six-pounders, while peeping from the tiny turret on the gun-deck is a ferocious-looking 18-pounder. The craft is equipped with two 30 horse-power motors.

"The builder believes that the *McKinley* demonstrates the fact that it is possible to construct a car for operation on street railroads in cities that would be of infinite use in case of riot. It is not beyond the range of the ability of modern mechanics to build a car that would be bullet proof and really constitute a traveling fort. Such a car might carry several pieces of artillery, or be equipped with the light guns that are used in the navy, the recoil of which would not be sufficient to damage the fort on wheels in any way.

"Indeed, it is believed that a car constructed on the same model as the *McKinley*, only, of course, of substantial material, would form a very effective protection for a company of men whom it was necessary to move from one part of the city to another. Certainly it would be very much easier to transport guns and men in this fashion, in case of riot, than in the ordinary way, and it is also true that movements could be made from one point to another with far greater celerity."

HOW TO TAKE CARE OF THE EYES.

THE following rules for preserving the sight unimpaired, given by a Philadelphia specialist to a reporter of *The Public Ledger*, are here quoted from an article on "The Care of the Eyes" in *The American Journal of Photography*, December:

"Avoid sudden changes from dark to brilliant light.

"Avoid the use of stimulants and drugs which affect the nervous system.

"Avoid reading when lying down or when mentally and physically exhausted.

"When the eyes feel tired rest them by looking at objects at a long distance.

"Pay special attention to the hygiene of the body, for that which tends to promote the general health acts beneficially upon the eye.

"Up to forty years of age bathe the eyes twice daily with cold water.

"After fifty, bathe the eyes morning and evening with water so hot that you wonder how you stand it; follow this with cold water, that will make them glow with warmth.

"Old persons should avoid reading much by artificial light, be guarded as to diet, and avoid sitting up late at night.

"Do not depend on your own judgment in selecting spectacles.

"Do not give up in despair when you are informed that a cataract is developing; remember that in these days of advancing surgery it can be removed with little danger to the vision."

"Other sources of eye strain, according to other specialists, are: Reading in jolting street-cars and railroad trains; working without rest on books and figures day in, day out, until the eyes break down; badly lighted counting-rooms and offices; failure to carry the head erect when walking; tight collars, corsets, and shoes—which causes a damming of the blood in the vessels of the head and eyes—and many kindred sources which cause much injury to the eyes if persisted in, but 'many a frown would be saved to man and many a wrinkle to woman' by having them corrected."

The Moral of President Jordan's Hoax.—President David Starr Jordan writes as follows to *Appleton's Popular Science Monthly* regarding his piece of pleasantry entitled "The Sympschograph," which recently appeared in that magazine, and (THE LITERARY DIGEST, vol. xiii., No. 23) which has drawn down upon its author no little unfavorable criticism.

"I had not the slightest idea," he says, "that any one capable of 'reading bound books' would be deceived by the meaningless phrases in that bit of burlesque. I intended it as a piece of gentle satire on the 'wizards' and 'impressionists' who follow in the wake of scientific work which attracts attention, and who pour their vagaries into the long ears of the daily newspaper. . . . I had a serious moral in the fable, and this, at the risk of trying to explain a joke, I shall give. The methods ascribed to the 'Astral Camera Club' are those which never have yielded and never can yield any results to science. Scientific investigators are not 'wizards,' their discoveries are not presaged by uncanny feelings nor green darkness, nor is there anything 'occult' about their ways of working. They are simply men of unusual persistence and steady common sense. Everything easy was found out long ago, and additions to knowledge can only come from mastery of past achievements and mathematical accuracy in the registration of small details. The progress of science is not marked by surprises and contradictions. The result of scientific inquiry comes as a surprise only to those ignorant of the steps in investigation which leads up to it."

An Electrical Laundry.—Among the applications of electricity that are not yet familiar to most people in their daily use is electrical heating, which has yet reached a perfectly practical stage and doubtless has a future before it as extensive as that of the electric light. The electric radiator and electric-cooking apparatus have already been described in these columns, and we now call the attention of our readers to another application in the same line, which, we are assured, has turned the steaming wash-room and the furnace-like ironing-room into cool and comfortable quarters for the laundress. All this has been done for a year past in the Indianapolis Hospital for the Insane, where an electrical laundry has for that length of time been in successful operation. We quote a description from *Electricity* (New York, November 25). "The equipment of the laundry with electrically heated sadirons has reduced the number of employees at the ironing-tables nearly one half. The reasons why such results are possible are that the electric irons are constantly supplied with a uniform amount of heat, nearly all of which is absorbed by the work, and by reason of the constant supply every rub is equally efficient. There being no appreciable heat radiated from the iron, it is apparent that in a room where the temperature can be regulated, and there is no vitiation of the atmosphere due to combustion, much more work can be accomplished."

SCIENCE BREVITIES.

L'Electricien, Paris, quotes from *The Optician*, London, an account of an invention by a man named Wilcox, in which a minute incandescent electric lamp is fastened to a pen near its point in order to illuminate the writing. "A little reflector," it says, "placed behind it, prevents the light from dazzling the eyes, and directs it toward the paper. This arrangement . . . may be applied also to a pencil or to any instrument of the same sort." —Translated for THE LITERARY DIGEST.

OF the German telephone-newspaper described in these columns some time ago *The Electrical World* speaks as follows, its authority being a German technical paper: "News is distributed continuously by telephone during the whole day, including some entertaining matter in the evenings, among which is always the overture at the opera-house whenever there is a performance; it appears from the program that stock quotations are given for fifteen to twenty minutes about every hour or two; every few hours there is a review of the principal news items that have been transmitted before; the number of subscriptions has at present reached 6,000, including a length of wire amounting to 330 miles; it is stated that it is now possible with the apparatus in use, to transmit simultaneously to 20,000 subscribers with sufficient loudness."

INFECTION BY PETS.—"Cats have been suspected," says *Modern Medicine*, of conveying the infection of diphtheria, and scarlet fever has been traced to them. To this may be added (*Chicago Medical Record*) the unwelcome news that a health officer has reported a case of smallpox brought about in the same way; that is, by a cat from an infected house carrying the disease to a neighboring house. Another case is reported in *La Médecine Moderne*, 'of a seamstress who was in the habit of allowing her dog to lick her face. She was attacked one day with a severe inflammation of the right eye. Oculists were consulted, but their treatment was unsuccessful; and owing to the fact that inflammation of the left eye was beginning, the right eye was cut out. In it was found a tapeworm, which the dog had probably picked up while licking some less pleasing object than its mistress's face. The danger of the transmission of parasites by dogs, which are well known to be indiscriminate in choosing objects for the exercise of their tongues, to the hands and faces of their masters, would seem to be a great one. It is remarkable that accidents of the kind related happen as rarely as they do."

THE RELIGIOUS WORLD.

PRIVATE CONFESSION IN THE PROTESTANT CHURCH.

THE custom of private confession is not confined to the Roman Catholic Church. Ever since the Reformation it has been advocated and practised to a greater or less extent in the Lutheran and other churches of Germany, altho in a manner and spirit entirely different from that in vogue in the Church of Rome. It has also warm friends in the American Lutheran Church, altho this favor is confined to the very conservative sections. Just in what spirit this practise is current and what its purposes are we glean from an article on the subject in the *Columbus Theological Magazine*, in which the writer lays down the following:

1. Private confession is neither commanded nor forbidden in the Sacred Scriptures, and it therefore belongs to the Adiaphora or Indifferent Things.

By private confession we understand the personal confession of the individual penitent and the direct and personal application of the words of absolution to such a penitent by the confessor. Private confession as thus defined does not require the penitent to enumerate or to specify every particular sin. To make such requirements of men, as the Roman Catholic Church does in her doctrine of confession, is uns Scriptural, unreasonable, and distressing.

While we can not find any command in the Word of God rendering private confession obligatory upon us, we do find numerous examples showing us that private confession is a *privilege* granted unto all whose troubled conscience leads them to seek this means of instruction and comfort. Such an example we find in the history of David and Nathan as recorded in 2 Sam. xii. 1-14. Also in the history of the man sick of the palsy as given in Matt. ix. 1-8; also Luke vii. 36-50.

2. Private confession is not an essential mark of a truly Christian congregation, and therefore those churches that do not practise it are not to be denied Christian fellowship. Those things that belong to the Adiaphora can never be made the tests of a truly Christian congregation. Such distinguishing tests are only two, namely, the pure preaching of the Word and the legitimate administration of the Sacraments that God instituted. In the words of the Augsburg Confession, Art. VII., this is declared thus:

"We also believe, teach, and confess that no church should condemn another because one observes more or less of those outward ceremonies which God has not commanded than the other, if they agree in other respects, that is, in the doctrine and in all its articles, as also in the right use of the holy sacraments."

The private confession has always been highly esteemed, at least in the Lutheran Church, yet it has never been the practise of the church to condemn those congregations in which this custom was not in vogue. In accordance with this the Theological Faculty of Wittenberg in 1619 gave the following "Opinion":

"We do not deny that private confession is not used in all orthodox churches, where there is, notwithstanding, the forgiveness of sins and the right use of the sacraments; therefore the confessional chair is not provided for either of these purposes."

3. Private confession is of great advantage and a special comfort to the believer, and should, therefore, be encouraged in the churches. It is such a benefit to the believer, who is thus enabled to unburden his heart more fully than he could do in a general confession. It was an advantage for David to speak personally to Nathan, and for the Prodigal Son to say: "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight." Such confession enables the penitent the opportunity of expressing the fulness of his heart in his own words and of specifying any particular sin that may trouble him above others. The experiences of all Christians are not alike, and for that reason a general confession alone will not suffice under all circumstances. This advantage also consists in this, that the penitent is enabled to have the forgiving words of the Lord applied to him in person and to the individual case in hand, which personal application is a source of great comfort (Cf. Matt. ix. 2; Luke vii. 48).

Luther fully knew and appreciated private confession when he

wrote: "I will permit no one to take from me private confession and would not give it up for all the treasures of the world. No one knows the possibilities of private confession except those who most frequently battle with Satan. I would long since have been conquered and destroyed by the devil, if this private confession had not sustained me."

THE NEW ARMENIAN PATRIARCH.

THE selection of a new Patriarch for the Armenian Church, with headquarters at Constantinople, who is a *persona grata* in the eyes of the Turkish Government, was reported in the press despatches some weeks ago. The new dignitary turns out to be a man with interesting antecedents and a noteworthy character. In the *Wiener Zeitung*, a correspondent furnishes a number of readable *personalia* of the Patriarch, the leading data of which are reproduced here.

The newly elected Armenian Patriarch, Ormanian, whose confirmation by the Sultan is scarcely a matter of question, was originally an ecclesiastic of the Roman Catholic Church. He was educated in Rome by the Propaganda and had there most excellent opportunities of studying the character of Jesuitism and of the Church of Rome in general. Ormanian was even a favorite pupil of Pope



THE NEW ARMENIAN PATRIARCH.

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Pius IX. Later, however, when he had returned to Constantinople, he became an opponent of the Pope. Ormanian protested against the doctrine of papal infallibility; and when the Armenian Catholic bishop of that time, Mgr. Hassoun, attempted to introduce this doctrine also into the Oriental church, he with his whole family left the church of his birth, and with a large number of his friends deserted the Armenian Catholic or United Church and connected themselves with the Gregorian Armenian Church, which does not acknowledge allegiance to the Pope. It is of this church that he has now become the Patriarch.

Ormanian is a highly educated man. He is a doctor of theology, of philology, and of laws, and is also a member of the Theological Academy of Rome. In addition to his mother tongue, he speaks also Turkish, French, and Italian; and quite naturally the Latin. He is in his deportment and manners a thorough man of the world. His family is highly connected and influential. One of his brothers is the favorite physician of the Turks in Constantinople, Dr. G. Ormanian, the leading physician of the Central Ottoman Pharmacy.

The first business of the new Patriarch will consist in removing the misunderstandings between the Turkish Government and the Armenian people. He will be forced to work hand-in-hand with the Armenian Prince Dadien Artin Pasha, the under-secretary of the foreign ministry. The Government then proposes to aid him by publishing an amnesty, by the greatest possible financial reparation to the Armenian families who have lost property and homes, and by reforms in the reorganization of the militia, the police, and the administration of justice, both in the capital city and in the provinces. — *Translated for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*

La Minerve, a French journal in Montreal, has taken the ground that the Parliament of Canada will continue to be seized of the Manitoba school question until Catholic separate schools are fully restored.

CONGREGATIONALISTS AND THE "THREE BULWARKS OF ORTHODOXY."

THE Christian Leader (Universalist, Boston), quoting from a recent editorial in *The Congregationalist* of the same city which discussed the significance of the topics at the autumnal conferences of the Congregational churches, drew the inference that the latter paper had intimated that Universalist principles have superseded orthodoxy. At a meeting in Boston still more recently one of the speakers is reported as declaring that the Universalist Church has overthrown "the three great barriers of orthodoxy"—the divinity of Christ, the vicarious atonement, and eternal punishment. These statements call out from *The Congregationalist* an interesting and suggestive declaration setting forth the position held by the Congregational churches of to-day on points of doctrine referred to. This declaration is as follows:

"In our judgment both our contemporary and the speaker referred to have failed to apprehend the doctrinal attitude of Congregational churches. We are confident that the belief of these churches in the divinity of Jesus Christ were never stronger than now. They emphasize his humanity far more than they did a generation ago, but his humanity is of supreme significance to them because he, the only-begotten of the Father, manifests God to men. They do not attempt, as once theologians did, to define the Trinity, but they stand firm in their conviction that 'the Word was God' and that 'the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.'

"These churches believe as confidently as ever that Jesus Christ is the one Mediator between God and man, that through him is preached unto us the forgiveness of sins, and that there is no other name given under heaven among men whereby we must be saved. They do not hold to any one theory of the atonement set forth by theologians as fully comprehending its meaning. But they know by experience that Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose again for our justification. That experience many Congregationalists may not profess to be able to put into a theological formula, but it is the most real and precious experience of their lives.

"These churches believe in retribution for sins in the world to come. They do not, perhaps, call it damnation. They do not undertake to describe hell. They do not affirm that there is an eternity of conscious suffering for sinners unchanged and unforgiven. But they do not believe that sin goes unpunished, or that sinners who reject redemption through Jesus Christ are going to heaven. They do not preach salvation for men except through him, and if they leave undetermined the nature of punishment it is simply because they feel that the doom of the impenitent is beyond their comprehension. These, we believe, are in substance the positions held on what have been called the three bulwarks of orthodoxy."

ANOTHER YEAR OF CHURCH ENTERTAINMENTS.

REV. DR. WILLIAM BAYARD HALE, who is warring vigorously against sectarianism, finds in the prevalence of church entertainments an additional evidence of the interference which the divisions among Christians have wrought with the spiritual work of the church. He has kept a record of entertainments given by religious societies in the United States from June 1, 1895, to June 1, 1896, and this record, which of course is but fragmentary, includes more than five hundred such occasions. "It is with a sense of amazement, tinged with admiration," he says sarcastically, that a student discovers "with what increasing ardor the institution, founded not to be ministered unto but to minister, is giving itself to the duty of providing fun at a minimum cost; with what unexampled philanthropy it is placing within reach of the humblest and poorest of Christian people the Female Minstrel, the Dog-Show, the Dance of the Wood-Nymphs, the Brownie Drill, and kindred joys."

His enumeration of such entertainments, with the churches responsible for them, fills six pages of *The North American Review*. It includes the following: "'Mrs. Jarley's Wax-works,'

rejuvenescent with Trilby characters (without whom no well-ordered church performance is complete), and 'The Man Who Tickled His Wives to Death';" "'Woodcock's Little Game,' said to be a clever thing in the comedy vein, brilliant series of Living Pictures, and that screaming farce, 'Poor Pillicoddy';" "a birthday party, in the course of which a baby rattle and spoon drill was performed in a gratifying manner;" "a stimulating entertainment by the Peak Sisters, widely known in American religious circles, introducing that touching ballad, 'Do You Know the Mouth of Man,' in which the gentle art of kissing is referred to ninety times;" a Poker Party; a Dude Drill; a Great Moral Dime Show, "introducing McGinty, a dwarf, and a petrified man"; Dance of the Arab Maidens; a Blackbird Ballet; the Chew Glue Sisters in their Song and Dance Specialties; "Sacred Female Minstrels," in which the young ladies were not only corked but appeared in bloomers, and one of whom, "with enviable agility, if not discretion, kicked a tambourine held above her head"; a three-act opera in which the male rôles were taken by girls in fleshings; the Trilby Party, otherwise the Foot Social, otherwise the Ankle Auction, in which "the young ladies of the church display their—feet let us say, and be polite—behind a curtain which is lifted to a height described as 'tantalizing,'" and men in front of the curtain, viewing what is displayed, bid for the privilege of taking their particular choice of the females to supper.

After his formidable array of such titles, Dr. Hale proceeds to express his feelings as follows:

"I am launching no anathemas at any well-meant effort to make religion attractive. Dignity is not the chief consideration in a divine service, and it is conceivable that it is sometimes expedient to sacrifice good taste to a more important thing—the benefit of souls. But I deplore, and I feel that serious men must everywhere deplore, the conditions which make the sensational Sunday show frequent and familiar. As a means of drawing a big house, I concede its convenience, under our present unhappy divisions; but I traverse the opinion, if it is anywhere held, that a Sunday show would be necessary under a sane and Christian—that is, a united, a catholic—administration of religion. Where now rival sects find it necessary to 'go to the masses' with prize texts, bicycle runs for Christ, cyclone evangelists, and lantern services, a united church, soberly engaged in its proper work, would find the masses eager to come to it. . . . The *raison d'être* of these things is in the fact that a hundred and forty sects have fastened themselves upon a people who can not support them. The show is the only means by which thousands of our innumerable and unnecessary religious societies can pay their bills. . . . The theater and the music-hall, properly conducted, are not establishments upon which the church has any war to wage. But the church is not a system of theaters and music-halls. It is a divine institution with a definite, particular, and sacred office, distinct from that of all human agencies whatsoever. It is to teach the sacredness of life, by standing for the essentially sacred side of life. Its songs are not merry glees, but litanies of human hopes and sorrows, and chants of human hearts in winged aspirations seeking God. If there is in life anything pure, and virginal, and sweet—God knows it is hard enough to keep the faith that there is—where is there to be kept any place and expression for it, if what are called the houses of God are given over to immodesty? We expect certain things from Mr. Hardy and the Zolaists, but we are hurt and grieved when the *Galahad* of our story-tellers descends to 'Summer in Arcady.' It may be too much to look for cleanliness on the professional stage; but surely it is beyond pardon that any body bearing the name of a church of Jesus, the undefiled Nazarene, should, by a doubtful exhibition, sully the mind of any pure lad or tender maiden committed to its care.

"If there is anywhere any witness for innocence, any illustration of the seriousness, nobility, and dignity of life; if there is anywhere any institution to preserve faith in the world, to administer the sacraments—that one which has taught former generations as nothing else ever could have taught, or ever can teach, the essential brotherhood of men, and that other which preaches the real presence of God in His world; any power to maintain,

against the attacks of the foes of order, the sanctity of marriage; if there is anywhere any organ of God to set right the judgments of society, to absolve whom He has absolved, but to whom men refuse pardon; anywhere any authority also to declare the eternal righteousness, to thunder the demands of justice, and make plain the practical duties of honesty, chastity, and mercy; anywhere, in this time of social travail, any witness to the reality of the kingdom of heaven, bold to demand that it be set up in very truth upon this soil of earth; any corporate love to search out the poor and minister to the sick, to pour upon the wounds of the victims of our social injustice the compassionate healings of its sympathy—it is not easy to recognize it in an agglomeration of enfeebled sects which eke out miserable existence by pitifully entertaining a world which the church is intended to minister to, to lead, to teach, and to save.

"Christianity is not stronger to do its work because, in the churches of its professors, there is being substituted for the incense of prayer the aroma of the bean supper and the oyster stew. It is not more beautiful and winning because the congregations of its competing sects are growing adept in meretricious arts. Far otherwise. The divided church is in humiliation and disgrace. Its impotence is perceived; it is despised. This is because it is trying to live in violation of its constitution. The church is constituted in unity, not in division; in holiness, not in desecration, immodesty, vulgarity, and sensationalism; in catholicity, not in the spirit of sectarianism. The church will again wield its ancient sway over the hearts of men when, returning from its apostasy, absolved and regenerate, it again appears—one, holy, and catholic."

FUTILITY OF EFFORTS TO TRANSLATE THE KORAN.

A CURIOUS fact respecting Mohammedans is the small proportion of them who have, or in the nature of things can have, knowledge of the Koran at first hand. The book is written in Arabic. Of course all to whom the Arabic is a mother tongue can form some idea of its mellifluous phrases. But even among Arabic-speaking peoples real appreciation of the book is limited to the highly educated. Among Mohammedan peoples of other languages than Arabic, ninety per cent. of the true believers have no idea of the meaning of the verses which they read or commit to memory. Reading the Koran is a merely parrot-like exercise. The reader benefits from the exercise through a sort of magical effect supposed to be produced mechanically by pronunciation of the sonorous words of the text. Of painstaking study of the meaning of the book, such as Christians give to the Bible, there is and can be none among the mass of the people. In fact, except exegetes by profession Mohammedans generally appear to deem it wrong to attempt to understand the Koran. What is the ordinary man that he should aspire to master the meaning of sentences framed by the Almighty Himself? The common people need but to believe. What knowledge is fit for them to use will be diluted to their understanding by their preachers. The more educated people may use the commentaries, but must not discuss their statements, lest they fall into error. The exegesis and paraphrase found in these commentaries are the subject of discussion between the different schools, which is too violently denunciatory for laymen to enter upon the borderland of the exegetic field.

It is for these reasons that the translation of the Koran is forbidden, and the reading of any translation is prohibited to Mohammedans. Recently a translation of the Koran has been made in Servia for the benefit of Servian Mohammedans, who have but a slim knowledge of the Arabic. The following official condemnation of this translation is interesting as giving quite clearly the theory on the subject which represses investigation among the peoples of Islam. It is taken from the *Skodra* newspaper, published by the Turkish Government at Scutari in Albania:

"The Holy Scriptures, whose every word and honored sentence contains very many high and delicate points of meaning and of

hidden interpretation, and whose every holy chapter embraces thousands of sublime meanings, has been mistranslated at Belgrade, and has been printed and published in Servian with a view to its distribution among Mussulmans, and has even been placed on sale in the book-store in Podgoritz. The greatest of ancient commentators, and the most sagacious of erudite moderns among the Moslem have been impotent to expound the holy and supernatural meaning or to paraphrase the lofty and miraculous eloquence and clearness of the word of the All-Bountiful, the great and glorious Koran. Therefore it is evident that the Servian translators, even if the work is not undertaken through religious animosity, from the sheer impossibility of mastering and understanding its sublime meaning, must have fallen into millions of faults and errors in their translation. This truth is therefore made known and advertisement made so that the Mussulman population may not become sinners by purchasing or by accepting this book if it is offered to them as a gift; for whoever reads the book, thinking that it conforms to the original, becomes thereby a sinner against God."

The probability is that the writer of this notice could not himself understand a word of the Koran. There is logical fitness that where attempts to understand a sacred book are forbidden to the masses, officials should proclaim the pain of death as a means of converting people to belief in its divine origin.—*Translated for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*

THE CHURCH AND SOCIAL REFORM.

THE Rev. Dr. E. Walpole Warren, rector of St. James (P. E.) Church, New York, has brought down upon his head the always picturesque invective of *The Sun*, for a sermon touching on the relations between rich and poor. In the sermon Dr. Warren spoke of the "widening chasm" between the two classes, "the wrongs of the poor," and "the great catastrophe" that is impending if we do as the barons of France did, wait until too late to redress these wrongs. *The Sun* calls him a "blatherskite" and an "agitator," denies that the poor hate the rich, and asserts that the "widening chasm" does not exist except in the imaginations of agitators and sentimentalists.

The Churchman takes up the cudgels in Dr. Warren's behalf, and quotes at some length from the article (see LITERARY DIGEST, December 12, 1896) by Goldwin Smith, "one of the closest and most cool-blooded observers of social phenomena of the present time," to sustain Dr. Warren's statements. Referring to Goldwin Smith's statements in regard to religion as "a powerful auxiliary of government and law," which has "reconciled men to the order of society," and with which "social morality generally has been in some degree bound up," *The Churchman* proceeds to make the most of these admissions from one of the most brilliant agnostics of the day:

"That is the keynote to the whole situation. It has been the church which has reconciled men to the order of society; the time is coming, if it is not already here, when the church must apply itself to the task of reconciling the order of society to the needs of men. Not by preaching charity to the rich and resignation to the poor—the day for all that has gone by. Not by howling at the luxury of the rich, and thereby breeding envy and discontent among the poor. Nor by preaching the socialism which would confiscate property, and take out of society its most powerful mainspring of advancement and improvement, the hope of a special reward for industry and thrift. But by holding up before every man—and especially before those upon whom large opportunities with their correspondingly large responsibilities have been bestowed—the highest standard of duty of each man toward his neighbor.

"The world is waiting to-day to hear the voice of the church on these matters. What other voice will the poor hear more readily? Not that of the economist. It is just as idle to expect the poor to be satisfied with explanations of the law of distribution, or disquisitions on the doctrines of Malthusianism, as to expect them to be satisfied with the 'clumsy dole of charity.' There is little

use in pointing out the fact that the laboring-man is far more comfortably off than his father was. Nine out of ten such men are not at all concerned to know that the luxuries of yesterday are the necessities of to-day. As Professor Smith observes, the enormous uplift in the physical well-being of the laboring-man has given rise not to increased happiness, but to increased discontent. Social theorists—some of them with very alluring theories—have not found any very large audiences, even among the people they intended to benefit most. What such people want is practise, not theory. Their suspicion and distrust of the church is founded on their belief that the church is not interested in their burdens and their difficulties—it is a misnomer to call them 'wrongs.' Unless the church has something practical to say upon the questions which most vitally interest the laboring-man, she can not complain if he turns away from her doors and her influence over him is lost.

"Prof. Goldwin Smith expresses a mild conviction that 'an adjustment' of these questions will be arrived at some day—tho a long way off—and meantime the only practical suggestion he offers is, that the central government should increase its military force until sufficiently powerful bodies of regulars are stationed about the country to put down promptly all sign of disquiet with powder and ball. That is the only way that Professor Smith can see out of the difficulty.

"The Christian religion has a better method than that to offer. Is it outside the legitimate sphere of preaching to proclaim that method?"

TOO MUCH LOVE.

WHEN a certain Sunday-school class was reciting texts about love, the small boy who came last wound up with one from the Song of Solomon (ii. 5): "Stay me with flagons, comfort me with apples, for I am sick of love." This, the *New York Observer* thinks, voices the current feeling among laymen. It is coming, the editor thinks, to be an accepted thing that all expression of opinion in religious meetings must be "diluted and weakened with a syrup of love;" and he lifts up his voice in protest as follows:

"In synods and conferences and convocations every speech must be prefaced by the explanation that what is about to be said will be said in love, as if without such explanation it must perforce be understood to be said in anger and hate. Of course, in no other kind of gathering would the speaker thus discredit the intelligence of his audience, or its capacity for enduring an honest and direct statement of belief, whether that statement was quite in accord with its views or not. He would feel instinctively that this sort of jargon would discredit his sincerity with his audience at once; that a frank and manly expression of his views or convictions would of itself be a better guaranty of that love which never faileth than any prefatory assurance of it. Yet in religious gatherings speakers have got so accustomed to the use of sugar-coating, to the lamb-like bleating of 'truth in love,' that they seem unable to rid themselves of it, tho it has long since ceased to have any meaning. The idea seems to prevail that it is preeminently Christian to affect a dread of offending anybody by a sincere and straightforward announcement of one's own convictions. To give even accidental offense would be a calamity so great that its mere possibility must be guarded against by the well-worn formula of 'the truth in love.' They forget that what people are likely to take offense at is, not the honest announcement of convictions, but the mass of amiable twaddle which obscures or dissipates conviction, or at least makes it evident that it is of only secondary importance.

"This sort of syrup is not truth, nor after the first dose is it even sweet, and only serves to convince people of the absence of any strong convictions at all. Nor is its use by any means a certain indication of the existence of Christian love. No man really yearning for the salvation of his fellow men prefaces his appeals to them with the assurance that he does not want to hurt their feelings nor give them any unpleasant sensation. He does not, when telling the sinner what he must believe to be saved, apologize for the necessary differences between his views and those held by the sinner. He does not, when condemning evil, so distinguish between evil and the person committing it that the latter

seems to escape condemnation altogether. Nor does he bleat so about love that all the terrors of the law are obscured in a mist of soft sentiment or drowned in a flood of tears. He knows that the real test of Christian love is readiness to express strong conviction to his fellow men, and that no one with a head on his shoulders, and conscious that he must accept or reject these convictions, will take offense at his appeals. He knows that Christianity is not gelatin or soothing syrup, and that if it were, it would soon disappear. Whatever else may be vague and nebulous in this world, the fact that Christianity, or Christ, drew the sharpest line of cleavage between good and evil, the false and the true, and established new standards of discrimination and measurement, is not vague. The condemnation of the scribes and Pharisees and the rebuke of Peter do not lack directness and explicitness. There is no verbal chloroform in Paul's letter to the Corinthians, nor in Christ's denunciation of the Laodiceans. The apostle to the Gentiles did not begin his speeches with palaver about love, nor dull the edge of his appeal for repentance by a half-apology for the necessity of making it at all. In the very directness of its call to the human heart lies the wisdom of Christianity."

RELIGIOUS NOTES.

THE Salvation Army in Great Britain has raised \$118,775 during its late self-denial week to carry on the work of the Army. This is an increase of \$25,000 over the amount thus raised last year.

The Church Review, London, remarks that during the last few years the number of Roman priests received into the Church of England has been decidedly on the increase, notwithstanding all efforts to restrain their freedom of action.

PRINCIPAL FAIRBAIRN, of Mansfield College, in lecturing recently on religious thought in this century, said of Frederick D. Maurice that he is the man whom men of later centuries will account the most ideal of all purely religious thinkers.

A VERY beautiful work of art, a Christ in ivory, now on view in Paris, is to be presented to the Czar by the clergy of France. It weighs seventy-five pounds, is composed of a single piece of ivory, is exquisite in design and perfect in workmanship. It is valued at \$40,000, and was once the property of the unfortunate Queen Marie Antoinette.

THE various foreign mission-boards of the Protestant churches of this country have agreed in recommending the second week in January as a time for interdenominational mass-meetings all over the land in the interest of this cause. They ask for appropriate sermons on January 10, and for special meetings on the Wednesday evening following for the success and enlargement of the work.

THE annual report of M. Pobiedonostseff, the procurator of the Russian Holy Synod; has, says the Odessa correspondent of the *London Daily Chronicle*, been published, and its contents and confident tone go far to disprove the rumors which have been afloat as to this statesman's waning influence with the Emperor. The old bigotry and intolerance are still prominent features in the report.

THE new Archbishop of Canterbury, in an address to the clergy and laity of a certain section, speaking of the removal of incompetent clergymen, says that a sharp distinction must be drawn between those who can not do the work of their parishes and those who can but will not. The former ought not to be dismissed on account of age and infirmity without some provision for their needs. The summary removal of the latter, however, ought to be made possible.

REFERRING to the refusal of Mr. Moody to enter into a debate with a Liberal club in New York city, the *New York Observer* says: "Mr. Moody wisely declines to participate in a public discussion with any champion of unbelief. Mr. Moody is doing a great work, and can not come down to a war of words upon a platform that would excite curiosity, but not arouse conviction. When skepticism can overthrow the argument of a consecrated Christian life or show a more potent way of saving the degraded and debased than Mr. Moody preaches, it will have more right to challenge the foremost evangelist of the day to a public contest."

ACCORDING to some excellent men, says *The Watchman* (Boston), the world will grow worse and worse until the end of the age. "The progressive moral deterioration is a sign of the nearness of the coming of Christ. We do not just here traverse this theory, but it is in order to point out that certain men are teaching it in a way which lays open to the charge of 'rejoicing in iniquity.' They accumulate the proofs of an increase of wickedness with a zest that constrains one to believe that they are rather glad of it. If that is the Christian temper we have misread the New Testament."

A SUMMARY has been prepared by the editorial secretary of the American Board of Foreign Missions of Protestant foreign mission work throughout the world. Compared with last year the total increase in contributions has been about \$1,100,000. In the United States there was a decrease of about \$70,000. The communicants have increased by about 64,000. In the United States, Canada, Great Britain, continental Europe, Australia, India, Africa, etc., there are 267 societies, 4,525 stations, 14,037 out-stations, 6,336 male missionaries, 5,675 female missionaries, 60,164 native laborers, and 1,221,175 communicants. The income is \$15,649,243.

FROM FOREIGN LANDS.

CUBA'S INSURRECTION AND THE SPIRIT OF SPAIN.

MISFORTUNE seems to be a blessing in disguise to Spain. For years the Spaniards have been divided among themselves, ever ready to revolt against authority, always willing to listen to some new "savior of the country." The colonial wars have changed this. The Carlist movement has been repudiated so far even in the Biscayan provinces. The Republicans declare most emphatically that they will not attempt to obtain reforms in accordance with their opinions while Spain is struggling to hold her own in the world, and the Andalusians have ceased to shoot the tax-gatherers. Throughout the whole country only one thought prevails: Spain must maintain her standing among the nations, be the cost what it may. The attitude of the United States has been largely instrumental in bringing about this change. Castelar, at one time president of the short-lived Spanish Republic, declares that Spain gave full equality to the Cubans with her own citizens. More she can not do and will not do. Spain has treated Cuba much more leniently after former rebellions than the North treated the South after our Civil War, for Spain granted to Cuba full representation, while America degraded the Southern States to the rank of territories. Castelar is certain that Spain will resist interference on the part of the United States very strongly. The *Dia*, Madrid, says:

"The United States acts in a manner which, if it was at all common, would make peaceful relations among the nations of the earth impossible. The Americans interfere in matters which do not concern them, and foster rebellion in the most unwarranted fashion. Their threats of war go for nothing, they are far too cowardly to come to actual blows. The United States acts like a thief, willing to steal, if thieving was not so dangerous. Spain will never give up to the thief."

The *España Moderna*, Madrid, in summing up the wrongs suffered by Spain at the hands of the United States, says:

"Monarchy or republic, Spain has always been treated equally unjustly by the Americans. When the Spanish Republic introduced reforms in Cuba, America interfered. We were preparing for a rule much superior to the institutions of the United States. For while liberty and equality are nominal only in America, we removed the social barrier which, in the United States, divides the liberated slave from his erstwhile master. We hoped to introduce purity in politics. But the nation whose notorious corruption has infected the entire American continent has never ceased to send its filibustering expeditions to Cuba, making it impossible for us to proceed with our reforms."

"This nation, which proudly claims to be called Christian, continues to foment with fiendish delight one of the most destructive of civil wars the world has known. That such a blindly cruel people should have developed under the banner of freedom is enough to dash to the ground the hopes of democracy."

As the *España Moderna* is a distinctly Liberal, and withal a very influential magazine, the foregoing seems to indicate that there is little hope of a revolutionary movement in Spain while the country is engaged in colonial or foreign wars. The *Diario*, Barcelona, ridicules the assertion that the press is not free in Cuba. It mentions such papers as the *Diario de la Marina*, the *Luchra*, the *Union Constitutionnel*, and others who favor home rule for Cuba, yet are not interfered with. The absence of a rebel press is explained by the circumstance that the great majority of the rebels can not read.

There is no denying the fact that the Spaniards are nerving themselves for a conflict with the United States, whose magnitude they do not underrate. The *Union Ibero-Americana* says:

"There is not a single discordant voice among the first men of the country or in the Spanish Parliament. Patriotism dominates

over all other passions, and has subdued all other interests. When the national crisis has passed, minor business will again be attended to. Meanwhile everything is subordinated to the interests of the country. Society strongly reflects the manner in which every one's mind is preoccupied by the rebellion of our colonies and our strained foreign relations. The salons of Madrid are closed. Parties are not given and few visits are being paid, and these only among the most intimate friends. On the whole it may be said that the people are little disposed to pass the holidays in a cheerful spirit. . . . May the future bring a pleasanter condition of affairs!"

On the whole the tone of the Spanish press is more determined than jingoistic. Utterances such as those quoted from the *Dia* are rare. Men of high standing, whose pens rarely contribute to the literature of the day, now contribute to the newspapers to cheer the nation. In the *Liberal* Señor Pidal, Speaker of the Spanish Commons, likens the United States to a colossus with feet of clay, and adds:

"The Americans are rich, and they will think twice ere they attack the poor *hidalgos*, whose only heirloom now is their sword. We must not boast, but be quiet and firm, leaving the result of the struggle to Providence. Those who cried lightly '*A Berlin*,' afterward passed through the horror of the Commune. Spain is not invincible, but neither is she to be despised as an enemy, as history proves. A small but desperate army may well overcome large forces."

The news that the European powers will intervene in case of serious trouble between the United States and Spain appears premature. It meets with official denials from the several governments. The European press seems to regard the necessity of intervention as very distant. With the exception of the revolutionary organs, such as the *Intransigent*, *United Ireland*, *Vorwärts*, etc., the press regards the cause of Spain as just, though her administration of Cuba is none of the best. The *Independance Belge*, Brussels, thinks there is no proof that either the Cubans or the Americans would do better in the Pearl of the Antilles. The *Frankfurter Zeitung* agrees with President Cleveland's opinion as expressed in his message. "The rebellion would soon be over," it says, "if the Spaniards had an organized army to deal with, instead of marauding bands." The *Kieler Zeitung* does not think it would be either wrong or strange if the Spaniards had sought to trap Maceo, "since that is precisely what Maceo was doing all along to the Spaniards." The *Nieuws van den Dag*, Amsterdam, is waiting for confirmation of the tales of Spanish cruelties "from more reliable sources than American papers." The *Osservatore Romano* says that the manner in which the Spaniards come to the assistance of their Government ought to shame the less liberal Italians. The *Handelsblad*, Amsterdam, says:

"Maceo fell in battle, not by the hand of an assassin, as the American friends of the rebels would have us believe. Yet the latter have scored a distinct success by their vile calumnies. The news jingoes are rampant. Senator Chandler demands that Cuban independence be recognized immediately, that war be declared against Spain, and—just think of it! the circumstances of Maceo's death be inquired into on behalf of the United States. We can only hope that the Spaniards will treat with contempt these foolish goings-on of the jingoes. But it is to be feared that the hot Spanish blood will boil over. What will be the end?"

The London *Economist* ridicules the idea that the United States has a right to interfere because trade suffers. "England," says the paper, "could just as well have interfered in the struggle between the North and the South, thirty years ago, because there was a stoppage in the supply of cotton." Most of our British contemporaries agree that a war with Spain is not quite a holiday excursion. The *Globe*, London, says:

"Spain has endured much contumely from the great republic, but there are many indications that this passive submission to insult will not last much longer. It would be well, therefore, for

the Washington Government to place what restraint it can on Senator Chandler and his colleagues. If Spain is goaded to uphold her honor by arms, the naval war might have results not at all agreeable to the American Chauvinists."

The stories regarding Maceo's assassination are looked upon as rather "too thin." *The Times*, London, says:

"The Cuban party in the United States at first received the news of his death with blank incredulity, altho unable to offer any but negative evidence in support of their opinion. Now that accumulating evidence has put the death of the rebel leader beyond doubt, their rage and disappointment find vent in charges of treachery against the Spaniards. There is an agreeable vagueness about their accounts of the way in which Maceo's death was compassed. That he was poisoned by some Spanish emissary, that he was entrapped by stratagem, and that he was murdered while under the protection of a flag of truce—are among the stories current in Cuban circles. The poisoning theory is too absurd to have many adherents; even if Maceo had been killed by an ambushade, that is the favorite maneuver of the rebels themselves."—*Translations made for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*

INSURANCE AGAINST LACK OF EMPLOYMENT.

IN June, 1895, the parish of St. Gallen in Switzerland opened a department of insurance against want of employment. It was made compulsory, and included all workingmen whose earnings do not exceed \$1 per day. A contribution of not more than 6 cents per week is collected from the insured, the parish adds to this a maximum of 40 cents per year, and a small subsidy is paid by the cantonal government. Residents of the parish are entitled to assistance ranging between 20 cents and 45 cents per day when they have contributed to the fund for six months, but the assistance ceases after sixty days. Persons not born or entitled to vote in the parish must contribute for one year to the fund ere they can receive assistance. From a series of articles by the Dutch economist, H. S. Veldman, in the *Handelsblad*, Amsterdam, we gather that this novel institution is a distinct success. Hundreds of persons have been saved from the workhouse, thousands have been able to tide over their difficulties until they could obtain work at their trade, and the parish has been relieved from the burden of non-productive relief work. The institution is likely to survive even a severe test, and will be copied in other parts of Switzerland. The only serious drawback to its working seems to be that, in spite of Switzerland's democratic institutions, "one man is not as good as another" there. While the skilled laborers, mechanics, etc., paid their contributions pretty regularly, were rarely out of work and did their best to obtain employment if they were, the unskilled section were sadly lacking in the sense of moral responsibility. Mr. Veldman says under this heading:

"It has been very difficult to collect the premiums. Thousands of men did not pay the full amount, and many managed to elude payment altogether. As might be supposed, the majority of persons assisted out of the fund belonged to the class of 'unskilled' laborers. Yet these were the least willing to contribute to the fund, and when idle they did not realize that it was their duty to search earnestly for employment, as the fund is to be taxed in extreme cases only. The experience of the past year proves that a personal visit on the part of some responsible collector is of much greater value than countless notices sent through the mails. The rules provide that persons out of work and desiring assistance must appear in person before the relief committee, but even this did not prevent all cheating. Some persons who were really ill managed to hide the fact, in order to obtain assistance from the fund in addition to their allowance as patients. Much of the money, intended to relieve legitimate wants of persons out of work and their families, found its way into the bottomless till of the saloon-keeper. The labor exchange and employment bureau connected with this insurance did not work very satisfactorily. Only in isolated cases did men who were in receipt of pecuniary

assistance from the fund offer to go to work. In most cases they had to be called up when a chance for employment was found. In some cases the men who offered to do skilled labor were found to be entirely unqualified for the work. Very few of the men receiving assistance were willing to accept employment in neighboring parishes. They thought that work was guaranteed to them in the town where they resided."—*Translated for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*

THE SUCCESSES OF RUSSIA'S POLICY.

THE political editors of European publications remark with astonishment and admiration upon the skilful manner with which Russia has managed to use the political constellation to her advantage during the year just past. "England and Russia have changed places," says the Vienna *Tageblatt*. "Formerly Russia was the bogey, and was met with distrust everywhere, while England could do practically as she pleased. To-day England encounters determined opposition in every part of the globe." *Politiken*, Copenhagen, the principal organ of the Danish Liberals, and known for its matter-of-fact description of foreign affairs, thinks that Russia is likely to retain the advantage she holds for some time to come. We summarize in the following an article by "the Colonel":

Italy's dream of colonial expansion is over. In the direction of the Sudan she will make no new attempts. Tripoli she would like to have, but she knows that she can't get it, for France prefers to be mistress of the whole of North Africa. Austria has enough to do with her affairs at home, since it is no easy task to hold together the many nationalities at present under her sway. Germany will not interfere with any one until she has built her fleet, which will require time. The German Opposition parties will attempt to prevent the Government from obtaining the money necessary to carry out its ambitious plans. In the end the Government will gain its point, as always, but during the interval Germany is not to be had for extensive foreign enterprises. France casts her longing eyes upon Egypt, and cares for nothing else. England has enough to do to maintain her position in Egypt, where she has no legal rights. Russia has, therefore, perfect liberty to expand. She will use the changes which are taking place in Turkey to her own advantage, which is amply proven by the charming frankness of the Russian press, which announces that Russia alone has a right to adjust matters in Turkey, and by the massing of troops on the Armenian frontier. There is no doubt that Russia expects a new rising in Armenia in the spring, and that she is prepared to act. The "European Concert" is not likely to stop her. When she is ready the ambassadors at Constantinople will have to pack their valises. Russia plays first fiddle now, and is likely to obtain the undisputed possession of the waterway from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea. It remains to be seen whether England will make an attempt to prevent a Russian monopoly of the Dardanelles.

The Russian papers regard the danger of English interference as remote, since the antagonism between the Triple and Dual Alliances is on the wane. The *Novoye Vremya*, St. Petersburg, says:

"The last vestige of this enmity must and shall vanish in the interest of all, for all must combine against the common enemy—England. Divided, the powers are the obedient servants of the Briton, and divide them he will if it can be done. The torrents of blood shed in Asia Minor served to turn the attention of Europe from Egypt. The powers must cross England's plans by refusing to go to war over Turkey. The time has come for France, Germany, Austria, and Russia to regulate the Eastern question without consulting England."

The *Viedomosti* does not go to such lengths. It is well satisfied to settle the Turkish problem without coming to blows, even if England obtains some concessions. The paper believes that Russia should free herself from her obligations in Asia Minor, to be able to turn her undivided attention to the Far East. According to all accounts Russia has things her own way in China. In spite of all official denials, it seems certain that Russia has ob-

tained important concessions from the Chinese Government, the most important being the right to construct a railroad through Manchuria, and to occupy Port Arthur. The news has somewhat disturbed England. *The St. James's Gazette*, London, says:

"The network of new railways in Kirin and Manchuria, built by Russian money, worked by Russian officials, and 'protected' by Russian troops, will carry the Russian trains down to the open waters of the Gulf of Pechili. There is more than this. Chinese 'gratitude' has given a foreign power such a position, in the very heart of her dominions, as Japan, after all her victories, could not dare to aspire to. With her railways and her officers and her fortified stations all over the northern provinces, with her fleets and garrisons whenever she wants them at Port Arthur and Talienwan, with a permanent naval harbor at Kiaochou in Shantung, far away south on the Yellow Sea beyond the mouths of the Hoang-ho, Russia has China within her grasp. . . . With her fleets at the Peiho, and her military-railway network all round, Russia will be able to topple over the dynasty, and quietly stroll into the capital, at her pleasure, and the united forces of Europe and Asia could not prevent her."

The St. James's Gazette adds that England should at once make a grab in southern China. Other English papers, the usually well-informed *Manchester Guardian* for instance, advise Great Britain to wait until France and Germany help themselves. France, however, denies that Great Britain should necessarily be in it. *The Journal des Débats*, Paris, says:

"It is quite true that Russia has obtained an important diplomatic success, altho it is not quite clear as yet what concessions China has made. But Russia, in common with France and Germany, has rendered China an important service when she was helpless and at the mercy of Japan. England only sought to profit by the misfortune of China, and England is not entitled to anything, least of all the large concessions in the south of China which the press of Great Britain demands."

The German press fails to see that Russia's good fortune contains elements of danger to Germany. "If Russia obtains advantages in the Far East," says the *Vossische Zeitung*, Berlin, "the other powers do not necessarily suffer loss." The *Kreuz-Zeitung* avers that Germany does not care how much Russia expands in those distant parts, all Germany wants is peace. When the struggle between Germany and Russia comes, a few additional hundreds of thousands of Tartars and Mongols will not make a difference. The *Hamburger Nachrichten* continues to assert that England set Japan and China by the ears, and rejoices that the hated British did not reap the benefits they were supposed to desire so much. Our Bismarckian contemporary is, however, rapped over the knuckles by *The Japan Mail*, Yokohama. This

paper, which is famed for its fairness and justice, by which it has obtained an influence in Japan equalled by no other journal published by a European, says:

"We know, and our knowledge on this particular point is absolutely indisputable, that the uniformly maintained attitude of British diplomates in the Far East with regard to Korea and Japan's grievances there was that, if the two Eastern empires came to blows about the peninsula, Russia alone would benefit by the issue. . . . Moreover, no one having any knowledge, however superficial, of the course of events during the period while Japan's relations with China were growing dangerously strained, can be unaware that Great Britain's rôle was that of mediator, and that she exerted every effort, short of armed intervention, to avert a final rupture. Is it credible that the editor of the *Hamburger Nachrichten* is ignorant of all these things? If, not being ignorant of them, he has yet written in the strain quoted above, no words are sufficiently strong to denounce his malevolent duplicity. If he is ignorant of them, then it follows that he has undertaken to discuss a grave international problem without the slightest preliminary effort to acquaint himself with essential particulars."

But the most astonishing evidence of Russia's determination to make the most of the present favorable circumstances is the news that she has obtained a foothold on the shores of the Red Sea. This news has so astonished the English that, as *The Home News* expresses it, they "are conjuring up nightmare-like visions of the Muscovite Colossus in a position to deal deadly blows at the British Empire." The *Corriere di Napoli* thinks Russia was secretly assisted by Italy in this transaction.—*Translations made for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*

MEXICO'S PROSPERITY.

MEXICO, which used to figure in the news columns of the press among the countries whose unsettled state had become chronic, is lately attracting attention for opposite reasons. Mexico is undoubtedly prosperous, altho her long period of restlessness is not long enough passed to permit her to compare with the United States. In a large measure her present affluence is attributed to the energy and foresight of President Diaz, whom the Mexican people have elected for five consecutive terms, without any but nominal opposition from the Radical element. The result is that financiers are willing to embark in industrial enterprises on a large scale among our Southern neighbors. The *Nieuws van den Dag*, Amsterdam, says:

"Mexico is a republic, but her people seem to have a lively comprehension of the value of a stable government, for Gen. Porfirio Diaz, who has ruled the country for a period of sixteen years, has been reelected for another term of four years. It must be admitted that the state of the country justifies this confidence of the people in their chief magistrate. The long peace which the country has enjoyed has highly increased its prosperity. When Porfirio Diaz became President for the first time, railroads were almost unknown in Mexico. To-day there are many lines, aggregating 11,469 kilometers, the material used in construction and the rolling-stock are of the best possible quality, and there are many new lines building. Highwaymen formerly held possession of the roads in Mexico; to-day one may travel from one end of the country to another without fear. English and American syndicates have been induced to explore the gold and silver mines, and coal-mining is carried on with success. The income of the state has been raised from \$14,000,000 in 1876 to \$50,000,000 in 1895, and there is a large surplus. There is little doubt that all this is largely due to the President's wisdom. He has encouraged immigration, and has guaranteed full liberty to all foreigners. It is unlikely that he will be less successful in the future than in the past."

The Monitor Republicano, Mexico, says:

"For the first time since her independence Mexico has not a single cent of floating debt. The national obligations are per-



JOHN BULL AND JOHN CHINAMAN.

CHINAMAN: "Good-a-bye, Mr. Bull, big Russian Bear devil likee me welly much; he makee me topside."

JOHN BULL: "All right, Mr. Chinaman, I don't mind; only you'll have to go to him when you want to borrow money, not to me."

—*Westminster Gazette*, London.

fectly classified and defined, and the revenues are solid. Altho the interest on the consolidated debt is payable in silver, Mexican bonds are much sought after. The present Government is stable, the security it offers is ample, and the confidence of the foreigner is so great that of the \$40,000,000 Mexican bonds \$30,000,000 are in foreign hands."—*Translated for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*

Russia as the Pioneer of Civilization.—The German papers used to claim the distinction of being free from prejudice, while they accused their English contemporaries of want of principle. The enmity which has lately become established between the German and British nations, nevertheless, reveals that German editors are also possessed of remarkable flexibility of opinion. Russia, usually described as a benighted country oppressed by tyranny and corruption, is now described as the benefactor of Asia and the pioneer of civilization. The *Norddeutsche allgemeine Zeitung*, Berlin, referring to the delimitations of the frontier between Russia and England in Asia, says:

"It is extremely interesting to note how these two states have been driven, by the force of circumstances, to push their frontiers nearer to each other until they touched. During the last few years the Pamir territory has been obtained by Russia by a series of expeditions into the mountains. The frontier with India now runs from Lake Sorkul to the foot of the Hindu Kush. The Russo-Chinese frontier will probably remain unaltered for a good while to come, for there are serious geographical obstacles to the expansion of Russia at China's expense. The Asiatic continent has therefore been shared between the powers which are capable of administering it in accordance with the necessities of civilization.

"What Russia has done has not been achieved for the satisfaction of a blind lust of conquest, but to open the way for civilization among the nations of Asia. Russia's aims are largely humanitarian, and she may be proud of her record in that part of the world. Nor is it necessary that England and Russia should come to blows now that their frontiers march together for a long distance. On the contrary, peace ought to be preserved much more easily than before, if both powers are fully alive to their responsibilities. The energies of Russia are chiefly directed to the strengthening of her position in the Far East, in order to utilize the enormous capital which is being invested in the Siberian railway. Russia is forced to push her way to the ocean."—*Translated for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*

Li Hung Chang's Retirement.—It seems certain now that the "Bismarck of China" has retired from public life, and that his grand tour through the world will not materially assist the Chinese to obtain a just view of matters outside their empire. The *Ost-Asiatische Korrespondenz*, Berlin, a publication which does not risk its reputation by publishing news hastily, says:

"For a time the enemies of Li hoped to make him responsible for the defeat which China suffered in her struggle with Japan, and only the exertions of Prince Kung, the Emperor's brother, prevented Li's execution. That the Empress Dowager, who was regent during the Emperor's minority, remained faithful to Li Hung Chang can not be doubted. But even her great influence could not assist him sufficiently to regain his former power. To some extent her influence was used against him, for the Emperor's tutor and present confidential adviser, Wang Tung Hen, is Li Hung Chang's worst enemy, and used the coolness which exists between the ex-regent and the Emperor for his own purposes. During the period when the intrigue against Li Hung Chang was at its height, Count Cassini, the Russian Ambassador, demanded that a high Chinese dignitary should be sent to Moscow to grace the Czar's coronation. Li Hung Chang's enemies seized eagerly upon this chance to rid themselves of his presence, and as the Empress Dowager hoped to save her protégé by sending him abroad, Li Hung Chang did not object to the mission.

"Li Hung Chang's mission, therefore, began rather unluckily. His star rose somewhat when it became known that his mission proceeded in a manner creditable to China. But his enemies are still at work, and the news that he intends to retire altogether

from public life does not astonish people who are conversant with Chinese affairs. Under these circumstances Li Hung Chang will hardly be allowed to use the knowledge he has obtained during his late tour for the benefit of his country and his own advantage. The most natural consequence is that the great hopes placed upon him come to naught. Speculators and manufacturers in Europe and America, who hoped to obtain through him a rich harvest of orders and concessions, will find that they have been sadly mistaken."—*Translated for the LITERARY DIGEST.*

The "Victorian Age."—Such, thinks the *Handelsblad*, Amsterdam, the age of steel and steam will be called by future generations. Our Dutch contemporary is not an Anglomaniac, but it can not help acknowledging that the long reign of Queen Victoria is a fitting landmark by which an age of unprecedented progress in the world may be remembered. It says:

"The exhibition which is in preparation in Earls Court to commemorate Queen Victoria's reign of sixty years' duration will probably be more instructive than many international exhibitions. Not only in England, but throughout the world, our century will be called the 'Victorian Age,' and more important it will be regarded than the *Siècle de Louis XIV.* The Exposition will show many contrasts. We will be able to make comparisons between 1837 and 1897, and to note the difference in the fields of industry, commerce, science, and art. The difference between the tools and scientific instruments in use then and now will astonish many. . . . It is interesting to note at this juncture that the date of the Queen's ascent to the throne was looked upon as a happy omen, which has been verified. It was the longest day in the year, and Cruikshank's *Almanack* contained the following poetical comment:

"*Queen Victoria Proclaimed—The Longest Day.*
The Queen proclaimed upon the longest day;
May this coincidence be not in vain,
But prove prophetic of her lengthened sway
And to her longest day prolong her reign."

—*Translated for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*

FOREIGN NOTES.

The Japanese spare no pains in converting Formosa into a loyal province of their empire, and not, it seems, without some success. In the Pescadores, too, the natives are being transformed into Japanese. "There is," says *The China Mail*, "a flourishing Japanese school in which Chinese lads get from \$3 to \$4.50 to come and learn Japanese. A few of the Chinese have cut off their queues and adopted foreign dress."

The *Viedomosti*, St. Petersburg, the paper which Prince Uchtomski edits with the special cognizance of the Czar, declares that the Manchurians "are wild with joy at the prospect of a Russian railroad in their territory. They believe that an era of great prosperity is about to begin, and hope for nothing better than that Manchuria may be converted into a Russian province." It is thought that the paper would not publish this without the knowledge and consent of the Czar, and Russia's policy is gaged by it.

The *Nord*, Paris, publishes some accounts of the Russian fleet in the Black Sea, which prove it to be very formidable. There are seven line-of-battle-ships ranging between 8,000 and 12,000 tons, two armored coast-defense vessels, six armored cruisers, three torpedo-cruisers, twenty-three torpedo-boats, and eleven cruisers belonging to the volunteer fleet. The latter are not armored, but carry six to fourteen quick-firing guns. Three of them can steam twenty knots an hour. It is not thought that Turkey can prevent the egress of this powerful fleet.

The Paris *Figaro* comments upon the late friction between soldiers and civilians in Germany in the following remarkable manner: "The Liberal and Radical elements in the German Reichstag wish to destroy the social and political advantages which the German officers enjoy, just because an officer went too far in his interpretation of what is meant by a military sense of honor. Yet to this spirit of its army Germany owes everything. Without this keen sense of honor the German officers would not have been superior to ours in 1870. Without it there would be no unity in Germany, no German Empire, and certainly no German Reichstag."

The Académie Française has made a sad mistake. During one of its late sittings it awarded one of the Monthyon prizes to a Mrs. Hardouin, of Meudon. The prize, which consists of a medal, a diploma, and \$100, was to be given to her because she, a poor woman, had adopted ten children and educated them well. Unfortunately another Mrs. Hardouin, a notorious drunkard, lived in the same house. By mistake the package was delivered to her. She immediately began to exchange the money for whiskey, boasting the while of the honors conferred upon her. The Académie Française was thus informed that its intention had miscarried, and the members subscribed the funds necessary to reward the "original" Mrs. Hardouin.

MISCELLANEOUS.

DANIEL WEBSTER'S UNPROMISING SCHOOL-DAYS.

"IT is doubtful if, among that group of intellectual prodigies whose efforts in the courts of justice and in the national halls of legislation have been materially felt during our career as a nation, there can be found one whose early school-days were associated with such humiliating and unfavorable circumstances as were those of Daniel Webster, the foster-father of our American nationality." Such is the opening sentence of an article by Forrest Prescott Hall in the January *Arena*. The observation is amply justified by the facts that follow concerning Webster's school-days, and his difficulties in making a speech and even in reciting his lessons.

Daniel's parents were humble folk in straitened circumstances, in what is now called Salisbury Center, N. H. It took considerable contriving to enable him to get the education for which he had a passionate longing; but on May 25, 1796, he and his father set out for Exeter, where he was placed in a school kept by a Mr. Clifford. The house is still standing, "the pride of the town." Mr. Hall proceeds as follows:

"When Daniel was given in charge of the worthy Mr. Clifford it was the first time that he had ever been away from home, and his feelings can not be better described than by himself:

"The change overpowered me. I hardly remained master of my own senses among ninety boys who had seen so much more and appeared to know so much more than I did."

"It is not to be wondered that the change overpowered him, a rough, untrained country boy, at fourteen years of age.

"It is said that Webster, upon leaving his son at Mr. Clifford's house, remarked to this gentleman that 'he must teach Daniel to hold his knife and fork, for he knows no more about it than a cow about holding a spade.' It seems that the comparison was a good one, for his manners at the table were so rude that the other students requested the landlord to send him away. But the kind-hearted man would not consent to this, and refused even to remonstrate with Daniel, for he knew that the boy was sensitive and knew no better.

"He hit upon a plan, so the story goes, which resulted in teaching the boy how to use his knife and fork. Webster was accustomed to hold them in his fists. Mr. Clifford one day held his in the same way, and continued to do so until Webster saw how ungraceful it was and corrected himself. The knife-and-fork episode is not much in itself, but it shows how ignorant Webster was when he came to Exeter, and under what adverse conditions was his struggle for an education.

"As to his studies his success at Exeter was not great. He himself says so. He seemed unable to recite in a room filled with boys, and tho he studied hard, and was far from stupid, he could never make a good recitation. But what is to be wondered at most of all is that he could not be induced to speak in public. When the day came on which the class was to declaim, altho he had learned his piece, he was utterly incapable of rising from his seat when his name was called. 'The kind and excellent Buckminster,' says Daniel in his autobiography, 'sought especially to persuade me to perform the exercise of declamation, like other boys, but I could not do it. Many a time did I commit the pieces to memory in my room, yet when the time came when the school collected to hear declamations, when my name was called, and I saw all eyes turned to my seat, I could not raise myself from it. Sometimes the instructors frowned, sometimes they smiled. Mr. Buckminster always pressed and entreated most winningly that I would venture, but I could never command sufficient resolution. When the occasion was over I went home and wept bitter tears of mortification.'

"And now, when we think of Daniel Webster, the orator whose speeches have become classic and who towered above his fellows like the peak of Teneriffe, we can not help smiling at the picture of Daniel Webster the boy blushing and stammering before his schoolmates, and unable to pronounce a word of the speech which he had learned and studied for the occasion.

"It is said that Daniel was so much discouraged by his inability to declaim in public, and by his treatment at the hands of his fellow students, that at the end of the first term, when Dr. Abbot called him up and asked him if he intended to return after Christmas, his answer indicated something like reluctance. The principal well knew that Webster's rustic manners and coarse clothing had drawn upon him the ridicule of the boys, who, says Mr. McGaw, 'in every respect except habiliments and external accomplishments were greatly his inferiors.'

"It must be admitted that Webster was slovenly and untidy in his appearance. It is said that he rarely washed his face and hands. Many stories are told concerning this noticeable habit of youth, and the following instance illustrates very clearly Webster's unkempt appearance and also a sally of wit:

"Day after day Daniel appeared in class with his hands besmeared with dirt, paying no attention whatever to the urgent appeals of the teacher to keep them clean. Finally the climax was capped. One day Webster presented himself in the classroom with his usual unclean appearance. The teacher could stand it no longer, and, quickly calling the boy to the desk, took up his dirty hand and exclaimed in an enraged tone, 'Webster, if you can show me another hand in this room as dirty as this one I will not punish you.'

"Webster quickly drew up his other hand and said, 'Here's one, professor.'

"The teacher was wholly taken aback by the brightness of his young pupil, and admitted that he was beaten. Webster took his seat without the thrashing.

"Webster was assured by the kind principal that he was a better scholar than most of the boys, and that his constant application to his books coupled with a prodigious faculty for labor was surprising. He also told him that he should be placed in a higher class, where he would no longer be hindered by the boys who cared more for play and dress than for solid improvement.

"These were the first encouraging words,' says Webster, 'that I ever received with regard to my studies. I then resolved to return and pursue them with diligence and with so much ability as I possessed.'"

After a stay of nine months at Exeter Daniel was taken to Boscawen, N. H., to be taught by Rev. Samuel Wood. After one year here, the reverend gentleman informed his pupil that he was tired of him and would put him in college at once. He went to Dartmouth and did better work, learning to speak in public, and by the end of his freshman year had become quite a power in the college.

A Novel Way of Preserving Fruit.—A method invented by M. Petit, professor in the Versailles Horticultural School, for preserving grapes in the natural state by exposing them to the vapor of alcohol, is thus described in the *Revue Scientifique*: "The bunches of grapes, cut when just beginning to ripen, are placed on a wooden grating or hung up, within rectangular brick compartments covered on the inside with a layer of cement and furnished on one side with wooden doors. These compartments have a capacity of about 180 cubic decimeters [$6\frac{1}{2}$ cubic feet] and are built in a cellar of the Horticultural School. The delicate point is to employ a quantity of alcohol sufficient to stop the development of the grapes without modifying their flavor. A cylindrical receptacle 6 centimeters [2 inches] in diameter containing alcohol, at 96°, placed in one of the compartments described above, furnished enough vapor to keep the grapes in all their beauty of form, and so that their taste underwent not the least change. On the contrary, two or three similar receptacles placed in the same narrow space communicated to the grape an alcoholic flavor and a reddish color. M. Petit introduced at one time into each compartment not more than 100 cubic centimeters [6 cubic inches] of alcohol and renewed the amount every thirty or forty days. The duration of the preservation of the fruits depends on the temperature of the locality where they are placed, which should be as low as possible, in order to retard the ripening. M. Petit obtained this year results much superior to those of last year; most of the grapes were entirely intact more than three months after they were picked."—Translated for THE LITERARY DIGEST.

AN OSCILLATING BICYCLE-SADDLE.

THE following description of a new French bicycle-saddle, which is said to avoid all the inconveniences of the ordinary type and to be extremely comfortable, is translated from the *Revue Scientifique*, September 12:

"Its special aim is to furnish an immovable seat to the cyclist, that his efforts, considered in their totality, may be exerted with effect, and in the second place to obtain a sufficient mobility of the seat, a flexibility of the support, great enough to allow easy play to the muscles that are used in the act of pedaling. The muscles of the cyclist . . . are at once porters and laborers; they are burdened by the weight of the body, especially when the saddle is hard, and they must at the same time work the pedals; and as they contract to do this work they are wounded by the hard protuberances of the saddle. To avoid these injuries it is necessary that the seat should not be too supple, for then it would change its shape, and the cyclist is more or less impeded in his movements.

"To guard against this double inconvenience M. Chaix has invented his 'oscillating saddle.' It is made of two independent plates, having a considerable space between them. . . . Each of these plates sinks in turn under the pressure of the muscles, not offering resistance to their work and giving them a constant surface of action. The oblique plane formed by the plate on the side of the descending leg offers a particularly solid resistance to the push exercised on the pedal; during this time the opposite plate is relieved and resumes its original position, while the corresponding leg rises, and it prevents all movement of the body forward. In reality the saddle has one fixed part, which is placed at the rear, and on which, as an axis, the two movable parts oscillate; the plates rest on flexible springs that rest, in turn, on a sort of transverse socket fixed above the stem of the saddle. There is no vertical oscillation of the saddle regarded as a whole. The distance of the femoral articulation of the cyclist from the crank-axle remains constant, which is not the case with saddles having too flexible springs, and the immutability of this distance is extremely favorable to the good use of the velocipedist's strength.

"This saddle is generally made without a beak; and the objections that we have always brought up against beaks make it unnecessary to say how much we appreciate this advantage; at the same time, while we do not understand the utility of this addition, a movable and flexible beak can be fastened on in front and put in place with the greatest ease."—*Translated for THE LITERARY DIGEST.*

RAVAGES OF THE ICONOCLAST.

WE all recall with more or less of sympathy the darkey preacher who, while telling how Adam was made of clay and set up against the fence to dry, was interrupted with an inquiry as to who made the fence, and who scorned to reply on the ground that such questions would upset the best scheme of philosophy in the world. The iconoclast has been making great ravages with his matter-of-fact queries in our day, and the way in which some pet notions, poetical and other, have suffered is amusingly chronicled by the editor of the *Rochester Post-Express*. He begins by a reference to S. Baring-Gould's "Curious Myths of the Middle Ages" as a book that "set the fashion" in this line, and goes on to mention the ravages committed since that day:

"Emulating Mr. Baring-Gould's abandoned example, a gang of iconoclasts speedily came to the front, who at once set to work to make ducks and drakes of history. Thus the clergyman who officiated at the burial of Sir John Moore explained that Sir John was not 'buried darkly at dead of night,' but in broad daylight. Then a Norwegian traveler endeavored to silence the familiar hymn beginning, 'From Greenland's icy mountains,' by stating that he had been all over Greenland and would take an affidavit that 'it is a barren waste without any mountain, icy or otherwise.' Next one of the gang boldly challenged the assertion that 'Freedom shrieked as Kosciusko fell,' his disclosure being that Kosciusko didn't fall on the heroic occasion referred to by the poet, but

years afterward, dying from a perfectly prosaic fall from a horse, not on a battle-field but on a peaceful country road. About the time that the case of Kosciusko was being reopened for revision, a correspondent of the *New York Tribune*, who claimed to be a blood relation of Thomas Jefferson, punctured the tire of 'Jeffersonian simplicity' by showing that Jefferson loved purple, fine linen, and sumptuous fare—in fact was rather a dude than an exponent of plain living. While Jefferson was being set right, a student of Italian history took up the cudgels for Lucretia Borgia, holding that, instead of being as black as she was painted, Lucretia was a pretty good, not to say a truly good, woman. One summer Sunday night some years ago a stranger paused at the door of a village church and listened to the congregation singing 'By cool Siloam's shady rill.' He hung around until meeting was through and, stopping the minister when he came out, said, 'Excuse me, sir, but I've been to Siloam, and I assure you there is no rill of any sort thereabouts.' Was Joan of Arc buried at Rouen? The iconoclasts say not. Longfellow in his description of Acadia says, 'This is the forest primeval;' but one of the pirates once took occasion to write to the *Troy Times* that 'as a matter of fact the valley has an alluvial soil where there never was a forest primeval within the period embraced by modern history.' Did the 'Man with the Iron Mask' wear an iron mask? Well, they contend that he didn't, holding that 'later researches' show that the mask was of velvet secured by steel springs. And so on.

"The latest feat of the iconoclasts is perhaps to be regarded as the consummate flower of the wretched series. Oscar S. Strauss, late United States Minister to Turkey, in a recent address at the annual convention of Jewish women in New York declared that it wasn't Isabella of Spain who sent Columbus to discover a new world, but the treasurer-general of Aragon. Strauss need not be surprised if this exposure turns out to be the last feather which breaks the back of the public's patience."

BABIES FOR SALE.

THE well-known English journalist, W. T. Stead, has started in London a baby-market where homeless little waifs are furnished to childless couples. Many married people would be glad to adopt one or more children, if they felt secure against deception and were certain that the child did not come of a line of criminal or vagabond ancestors. Mr. Stead's new institution is intended to give the necessary information. We quote from the *Chicago Times-Herald's* description:

"To the comfortably furnished rooms where the babies who may be adopted, together with absolutely correct information concerning them, are to be found, many women, young and old, charming and ugly, wend their way every day to see just what specimens of juvenile beauty are candidates for home honors. There are plenty of them, and, like men, of all sorts and conditions, except that, in every instance when they are placed on view in the market, they are absolutely clean. Mr. Stead and his confrères hold that cleanliness is not only next to godliness, but an absolute requisite preliminary to adoption. So the baby faces shine under the benignant influences of soap and water, and if chubby hands undo the work of the washing apparatus, why, the scrubbing process is repeated.

"The babies, like all other humanity, are both bad and good. But the well-treated, well-fed, and well-washed baby is not inclined to be ill-natured, and so all look their prettiest, and smile their sweetest at the tender-hearted women who come to view them on adoption bent. The babies vary in age from six months to three years, but the tender age predominates. . . .

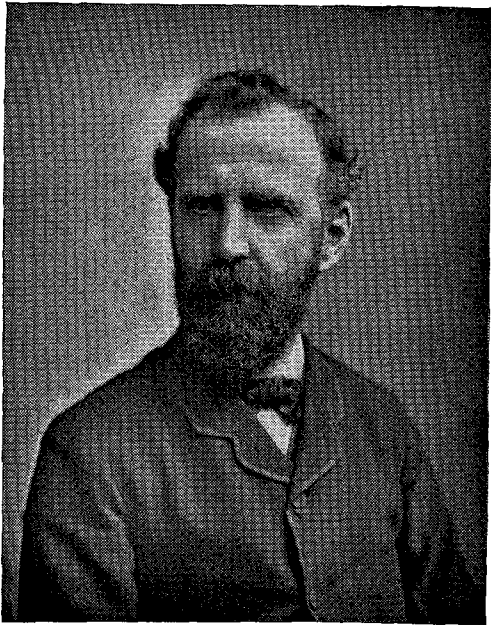
"The numbers given with the entries [in the baby-book] are those by which the babies are known, as they have no names. These poor youngsters start in life as guiltless of identity as the convict in the Spanish prison *Inferno* at Ceuta. . . .

"While it is not always the case, and perhaps not in the majority of instances, that a baby is sold as if it were an infantile specimen of the pug-dog, it is true that it not infrequently happens that a mother receives a cash consideration for parting with her little one. Generally it occurs that persons who are desirous of procuring ready-made children are plentifully supplied with this world's goods. Therefore it is quite natural that they should

offer no objection to, and generally prefer giving a reasonable compensation to, the lorn mother.

"It sometimes happens, however, that the foster-parents reverse this order of things, and after selecting a desirable youngster inquire how much they are to be paid for taking it, but Mr. Stead has notified them that their presence is not desired.

"The scenes at the baby-market are like those of a big nursery. Prettily gowned-and-capped nurses exhibit their charges to the persons who come to view, and occasionally a sad-faced woman is seen sitting in a chair in the visitors' room hoping for the opportunity that will make her grief-stricken. Such a one holds her baby as close to her as possible, undergoing in her imagination



WILLIAM T. STEAD.

the agony of parting over and over again. Then when the prospective foster-mother finally appears, the contrasting feelings are almost pitiful. It is a mingling of tears and smiles. The tears of the mother contrast with the smiles of the newcomer, while the baby tries first one and then the other emotion, not knowing whether its mother's grief or the visitor's joy means the most to it.

"There is only one other institution in the world, so far as known, like that which Mr. Stead has established. It is not really a prototype after all. The same principle, however, actuates both—that of caring for little ones and providing them with good homes. This second institution is in the United States, and is presided over by Dr. J. H. Kellogg, at Battle Creek, Mich.

"This haven of rest and hope for young persons has no restriction so far as age is concerned regarding the children it aids. In the eyes of the institution the girl of sixteen is still a child and requires infinitely more care in some ways than the tot of six. This institution is known as the Haskell Home, but it is a home only temporarily, as the children are placed with the persons desirous of adopting them as soon as possible."

A New Departure in Education.—Referring to the experiment being made in one of the public schools of Detroit, described by Gertrude Buck in *The Forum* (see LITERARY DIGEST, November 21), the Indianapolis *Sentinel* has the following adverse comments to make:

"Instead of learning the alphabet and then proceeding to the construction of words and sentences, the child learns stories, and then divides them into sentences, words, and letters. Instead of learning the arts of civilization first and those of savagery later, as mere matters of incidental interest, the child is put through centuries of world growth in a few weeks. Of course the actual conditions of savagery are not learned. The child put through this process of Indian, Aryan, Persian, Hebrew, Greek, Roman, British, and Puritan life, by means of stories of children of these

civilizations, gets a romantic and delusive conception of all of them that prevents a true conception of actual life. Hiawatha playing with animals and flowers is a pleasing picture, but Hiawatha fighting fleas and mosquitoes was probably nearer the truth. If the child were taught the advantages of a spring mattress over Hiawatha's bearskin bed, if he had one, or the superiority of a warm breakfast to chewing raw meat in a smoky wigwam on a cold morning, and that the comforts of civilization were to be obtained by hard work, he might get some practical benefit from this system, but he can not get practical benefit from the dream-life of savagery."

Mysterious Population of a Swiss Valley.—A recent German authority, according to the *Revue Scientifique* (Paris, October 17), gives some interesting notes on the population of the valley of Anniviers, in Switzerland. This is a long, narrow, deep valley, opening into that of the Rhone and traversed by the Navisence, a rapid torrent. It includes several villages, among others, Chandolin, which, being situated at a height of 1,639 meters [5,376 feet] is one of the most elevated in Europe. Its population has given rise to lively controversy. Desor considered it as of Arabian origin, and Fröbel and Tschudi regarded it as Celtic. A. K. Fisher, in a recent work, is of another opinion; he considers that the inhabitants of the Anniviers are Huns, conformably with local tradition. A small band of Huns was separated from the main body, and established itself in the Fournanche Valley; afterward, at the time of the Lombard invasion, in the second half of the sixth century, they fled into the valley of Anniviers, then uninhabited, and have held their position there ever since, being very much isolated from their neighbors, and being converted to Christianity toward the twelfth century. Many characteristics of the dialect used by the people, and many of their customs, seem to indicate, according to M. Fischer, the accuracy of this interpretation."—Translated for THE LITERARY DIGEST.

CORRESPONDENTS' CORNER.

Amazing Vitality of Seeds.

Editor of THE LITERARY DIGEST:—

In your issue for December 26 is an article from *Cosmos*, December 5, by M. C. de Candolle, translated for THE LITERARY DIGEST, relating to the "Vitality of Seeds," as well as remarks from others on this subject. I have no doubt as to the vitality of all perfect seeds under certain conditions. The growth of seeds under some of the conditions named would seem at first thought almost incredible: yet I have seen an instance which may appear still more impossible to believe.

Thirty-nine years ago when Kansas was still a Territory, certain lands, in what is now Franklin county, belonging to several Indian tribes, were surveyed, held in trust, and sold by the United States Government for the benefit of these tribes. I was one of the first after the survey to examine these lands to select a homestead. There was quite a high hill on the top of which was a "buffalo wallow," and extending in a beautiful slope from this to Hickory Creek was the land I selected.

Dr. Isaiah Pile, from Missouri, joined me on the north, and our cabins were erected near each other, on the highest ground. Dr. Pile, after a short time, contracted with certain parties to dig a well near his house. The work proceeded from day to day until at the depth of a little over one hundred feet a limestone rock was struck, but no indications of water. The men hesitated whether to give up the job or to go on; finally, the rock appearing thin, they worked through, and found, to their great surprise, a fine rich surface soil; digging through this they found gravel, clay, and plenty of water.

The earth which was under the rock, when thrown out, in the course of a few weeks was covered with a rich growth of tropical vegetation.

There were little date-trees, and other varieties of palms, besides shrubs, plants, weeds, and grasses in great numbers, all totally unlike anything which grew or could grow in the open air throughout the year in that climate.

How many millions of years those seeds had been entombed, I leave for the geologist to determine.

MARSHALL, MICH.

P. A. SPICER.

Errors of Scriptural References.

Editor of THE LITERARY DIGEST:—

The Holy Scriptures are certainly good literature, whatever else they are or are not, and there is an appearance of erudition in references to them. With this, provided it be respectful and pertinent, there need be no quarrel. But what shall be said when an egregious error is contained in the reference? What then becomes of the evidence of erudition?

Take the instance of Gounod's "Nazareth," a song all about the birth of the Christ in the manger in *Bethlehem*!

And what shall be said of the critic in *Book Reviews* quoted in your issue of December 26, page 233, who, writing of "holiday volumes," thinks it desirable to dignify his article with an utterly irrelevant reference to the Nativity, and says, "the 'Gloria in Excelsis,' supposed to have been sung by shepherds," etc. The italics are mine, of course. How splendid the caution of that *supposed*, with its flavor of "higher criticism"; but surely the supposition is original with the critic. It is hardly conceivable that there could be two people who have credited the humble shepherds with playing any part in that heavenly concert but that of amazed and delighted auditors.

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Editor of THE LITERARY DIGEST:—

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Charles A. Dana's Reminiscences

relating to Lincoln, Grant, Sherman, Stanton, life in Washington and events at the front, during the years he was Assistant Secretary of War, and "the eyes of the Administration at the front," as Lincoln said. All the members of Lincoln's Cabinet and all the great generals of the War are dead. Therefore the recollections of Mr. Dana, Mr. Lincoln's confidential and trusted representative at the front, are of the greatest national interest and importance.

Lincoln, the Great War President

The new series of articles by Miss Tarbell will be preeminently a study of the man Lincoln from his inauguration, in March, 1861, to his death, in April, 1865. It will follow him day by day in Cabinet meetings, public receptions, and private interviews, picturing his daily life at the White House and at the Soldiers' Home, and in his formal visiting of the departments and the camps, the battle-fields and the hospitals. It will show him the real head of the Government, exercising to the fullest the powers the Constitution gave him; the commander-in-chief of the army, providing money and men, making and unmaking generals, directing military maneuvers; the counselor and final authority of every member of his cabinet and of the Government.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Kipling's First American Serial

It is called "Captains Courageous," and sets forth the adventures of the son of an American railroad king who is swept off an Atlantic liner on the Grand Banks, rescued by a Gloucester fishing-boat (his story disbelieved) and compelled to work all summer with the fishing fleet, with much toil and many adventures. Begins in November. Followed by STEVENSON'S LAST ROMANCE.



RUDYARD KIPLING.

New Pictures of Palestine

Last spring the editor of McClure's organized a caravan, and accompanied by a photographer specially skilled and experienced in such work, made a tour of nearly the whole of Palestine, and took photographs of important places which the latest and most authoritative investigations have definitely connected with Biblical incident and history. These photographs have been reproduced with great care, and will make one of the most attractive features of McClure's through the coming months.

"Ian Maclaren's" New Stories

All of the short stories that "Ian Maclaren" will write during 1897, with two exceptions, will appear in McClure's. There will be some new Drumtochty stories (one appears in December), and new stories (not Scottish) in the splendid series to be published under the title "Children of the Cross."

Ten Famous Story-Tellers

New "Bonnie Briar Bush" stories, by Ian Maclaren. The first in December issue, Stories of Buccaneers and Pirates, by A. Conan Doyle, begin in March number. New complete short stories by Rudyard Kipling begin in December. Splendid California stories by Bret Harte. Stories of the South by Ruth McEnery Stuart. Stories by Frank R. Stockton. Short stories by two masters of humor and adventure, Robert Barr and Anthony Hope. Stories in a new and fascinating vein by Joel Chandler Harris. New stories of the Southwest by Octave Thanet.

Life Portraits of Great Americans

A collection of the finest portraits from life of Franklin, Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson, Jackson, Calhoun, Webster, Clay, and other makers of the Union; many of them unpublished heretofore; edited by Charles Henry Hart, the distinguished authority in American historical portraiture. The portraits in each case extend over many years, and show these great men at the important periods of their lives.

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BUSINESS SITUATION.

There were no sensational features in the trade conditions last week, excepting the reports of a few additional bank failures. The week was a dull one.

Prices in General.—"Manufacturers of woolen goods are buying raw material only to cover orders received. Large stocks of unsold print cloths continue to depress quotations, and merchants in leading staple lines at larger distributing-centers do not anticipate an early improvement in business. Prices of oats, petroleum, cotton and print cloths are lower, and buyers of Western and Southern brands of pig iron report a cut of 25 cents a ton. Prices are unchanged and comparatively firm for flour, pork, lard, sugar, anthracite coal, and steel billets. Since the break in iron and steel prices consumers appear inclined to await development.—*Bradstreet's, January 2.*

"Holiday dullness has been intensified by the failures and the efforts of great combinations to make new arrangements. With iron, coke, wool, cotton, and hides all somewhat lower, there is almost universal confidence that business will soon become large and safer than before for a long time, and several large establishments, among them the Yonkers Carpet Works, which employ 7,000 hands when full, and the Maryland Steel Co., will now start operation. Cotton mills have enormous stocks of unsold goods in some lines, the surplus of print cloths being the largest ever known and about a quarter of a year's consumption.—*Dun's Review, January 2.*

Movement of Wheat.—"Exports of wheat (flour included as wheat) from both coasts of the United States this week amount to 2,707,793 bushels, as compared with 2,111,000 bushels last week, 3,457,000 bushels in the week a year ago, 1,814,000 bushels two years ago, and with 2,036,000 bushels in the corresponding week of 1893. Exports of Indian corn this week amount to 2,656,994 bushels against 2,468,000 bushels last week, 1,839,000 bushels in the week a year ago, 649,000 bushels two years ago, 815,000 bushels three years ago, and as compared with 244,000 bushels in the like week of 1892."—*Bradstreet's, January 2.*

Failures of 1896.—"There have been more commercial failures in 1896 than in any previous year except 1893, about 14,890 against 13,197 last year, with liabilities of about \$225,000,000, against \$173,196,060 last year, an increase in number of about 12 per cent, and in liabilities of 29 per cent. The holiday makes it impossible to give exact figures until next week, but the monthly returns never before prepared show that \$36,000,000 of the excess over last year was in two months, August and September, in which manufacturing liabilities were \$15,600,000 larger than last year, trading \$10,100,000, and brokers' and other commercial \$10,300,000 larger. Of the latter class \$11,041,146 out of about \$18,600,000 were in those two months; of the manufacturing class \$24,970,356 out of about \$93,260,000 in the whole year were in those two months, and of the trading class \$21,831,880 out of about \$108,500,000 in the whole year. But for the temporary political alarm in those months, the entire excess of liabilities over last year would probably have been not more than 10 per cent."—*Dun's Review, January 2.*

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Room 208, Chamber of Commerce, Boston, Mass., Nov. 17, 1896.

In spite of this scriptural injunction, "Tell it not in Gath," I must proclaim the good tidings, that Hyomei has completely cured me of Asthma that for the last twenty years quite frequently made me almost speechless and unfitted me for business.

Yours very truly,

ADOLPH GEISMAR.

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Hyomei is a purely vegetable antiseptic, and destroys the germs which cause disease in the respiratory organs. The air, charged with Hyomei, is inhaled at the mouth, and, after permeating the minutest air-cells, is exhaled slowly through the nose. It is aromatic, delightful to inhale, and gives immediate relief. It is highly recommended by physicians, clergymen, and thousands who have been helped and cured.

Pocket Inhaler Outfit Complete, by Mail, \$1; (for foreign countries add \$1.00 postage); outfit consists of pocket inhaler, a bottle of Hyomei, a dropper and directions for using. If you are still skeptical, send your address; my pamphlet shall prove that Hyomei cures. Are you open to conviction? Extra bottles of Hyomei Inhalant by mail, or at druggists, 50 cents. Hyomei Balm, for all skin diseases, by mail, 25 cents. Your druggist has Hyomei or can get it for you if you insist. Don't accept a substitute. In stock at the leading wholesale drug houses of Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, and all leading business centers.

London Office
11 Farringdon Ave. E. C.

R. T. BOOTH CO., 23 East 20th St., New York.

Price Fluctuations of the Year.—"The year 1896 has been one of singular and confusing fluctuations in prices, of which very full details are given. Wheat rose to 81 cents February 8, fell to 60½ June 29, and rose to 92 cents December 29. Cotton started at 8.31 cents, with stories of scanty supply, fell to 7.62 March 5, rose to 8.37 May 7, dropped to 7.05 July 15, when a heavy surplus was pressing, rose to 8.87 September 10, with stories that the new crop was ruined, fell to 7.06, but closed at 7.12. Wool rose to an average of 14.74 cents for all domestic grades February 1, fell to 12.16 September 1, rose to 12.66 December 1, and has since declined. Iron and its products rose 3 per cent. to April 1, and then declined every month to December 1, in all about 20 per cent., since rising slightly. Boots and shoes fell 13 per cent. in the spring against leather 18 and hides 21 per cent. Then shoes rose gradually 20 per cent. to December, and leather 17 per cent., but has since fallen 3 per cent., while hides rose 25 per cent. to June 3, dropped 22 per cent. to July 8, rose 50 per cent. to November 4, and have since declined 13 per cent. Cotton goods were at the highest point January 1, fell 17 per cent. to August 6, rose about 7 per cent., to November 9, and have since declined about 2 per cent. The incongruity of these changes shows what obstacles business has had to face.

"In none of the industries mentioned has there been activity the past week."—*Dun's Review, January 2.*

The Week in Canada.—"Wholesale merchants at Toronto report general trade dull and no movement of importance likely before the middle of January. Commercial travelers at Montreal are preparing to start out soon, but merchants report collections slow and the country roads bad. At

Halifax Christmas trade did not meet expectations. Collections are only fair. There are 2,157 business failures reported from the Dominion of Canada for 1896, an increase of 303. The larger proportion of the gain is accounted for by an increase of 130 business failures in Ontario, 121 in the Province of Quebec, and 41 in Nova Scotia. The increase of about 14 per cent. in number of business failures in the Dominion is accompanied by a gain of only 7 per cent. in aggregate liabilities, which in 1896 amounted to \$16,208,000."—*Bradstreet's, January 2.*

Good News for Asthma Sufferers.

We are glad to announce that the Kola Plant, recently discovered on the Kongo River, West Africa, has proved itself a sure cure for Asthma, as claimed at the time. We have the testimony of ministers of the gospel, doctors, business men, and farmers, all speaking of the marvelous curative power of this new discovery. Hon. L. G. Clute, of Greeley, Iowa, writes that he could not lie down night or day from Asthma, and the Kola Plant cured him at once. Rev. G. Ellsworth Stump, pastor of the Congregational church at Newell, Iowa, was cured by it of Asthma of twenty years' standing. and many others give similar testimony. To prove to you beyond doubt its wonderful curative power, the Kola Importing Company, No. 1164 Broadway, New York, will send a large case of the Kola Compound free by mail to every reader of THE LITERARY DIGEST who suffers from any form of Asthma. In return they only ask that you tell your neighbors of it when cured yourself. This is very fair, and we advise all sufferers from Asthma to send for the case. It costs you nothing.

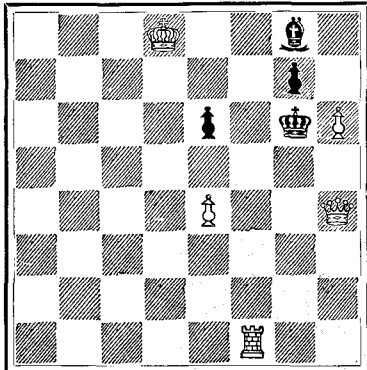
CHESS.

[All communications for this Department should be addressed: "Chess Editor, LITERARY DIGEST,"]

Problem 181.

BY CHOCHOLOUS, PRAGUE.
Black—Four Pieces.

K on K Kt 3; B on K Kt sq; Ps on K 3 and K Kt 2.



White—Five Pieces.

K on Q 8; Q on K R 4; R on K B sq; Ps on K 4 and K R 6.
White mates in three moves.

Solution of Problems.

No. 177.

- | | | |
|------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. B-Kt 3 | 2. Q-Kt 4 ch | 3. B-Kt 3, mate |
| 1. K-Q 5 | 2. K-K 4 | 3. Q-Q 2, mate |
| 1. K-B 5 | 2. K-B 4 or Kt 5 | 3. Kt-B 4, dbl. ch. Kt-K 3, mate |
| 1. P-K 6 | 2. P-Q B 4 or K B 4 | 3. B-Kt 3 or B-B 3, mate |
| 1. P-K B 4 | 2. K-Q 5 | 3. Q-Q 6, mate |

Other mates depend upon those given.
Correct solution received from M. W. H., University of Virginia; F. H. Johnston, Elizabeth City, N. C.; C. F. Putney, W. G. Donnan, Independence, Ia.; N. Hald, Donnebrog, Neb.; W. R. Coumbe, Lakeland, Fla.; P. H. S. Vaughan, Augusta, Me.

Some of our solvers considered this problem to be quite easy; but behold how it slew the experts! We have received no less than seven ways of *not doing it*: 1 Q-Kt 4; 2 Kt-B 7 ch; 3 B-B 7; 4 B-Kt 3; 5 B-B 4; 6 R-Q 8; 7 B-B 2. You can hardly expect us to give the answers to all these; we answer you, however, that there is only one move, B-Kt 8, that will do it.

New Cure for Kidney and Bladder Diseases. Rheumatism, etc.—Free to Our Readers.

Our readers will be glad to know that the new botanical discovery, Alkavis, has proved an assured cure for all diseases caused by Uric acid in the blood, or by disordered action of the Kidneys or Urinary Organs. It is a wonderful discovery, with a record of 1,200 hospital cures in 30 days. It acts directly upon the blood and kidneys, and is a true specific, just as quinine is in malaria. Rev. W. B. Moore, D.D., of Washington, testifies in the *New York Christian Witness* that Alkavis completely cured him of Kidney and Bladder disease of many years' standing. Many ladies also testify to its curative powers in disorders peculiar to womanhood. So far the Church Kidney Cure Company, No. 418 Fourth Avenue, New York, are the only importers of this new remedy, and they are so anxious to prove its value that for the sake of introduction they will send a free treatment of Alkavis prepaid by mail to every reader of THE LITERARY DIGEST who is a sufferer from any form of Kidney or Bladder disorder, Bright's Disease, Rheumatism, Dropsy, Gravel, Pain in Back, Female Complaints, or other affliction due to improper action of the Kidneys or Urinary Organs. We advise all Sufferers to send their names and address to the Company, and receive the Alkavis free. It is sent to you entirely free, to prove its wonderful curative powers.

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Steinitz-Lasker Games.

The latest received from Moscow gives Lasker, 8; Steinitz, 2; Drawn, 5.

SIXTH GAME.

(Comments by Reichelm in *The Times*, Philadelphia.)
The sixth game of the Lasker-Steinitz is a curious even among modern games, as no brilliancy was allowed to mar what modern professors call "finishing for position."

LASKER. <i>White.</i> 1 P-K 4 2 K Kt-B 3 3 B-B 4 4 Kt-B 3 5 P-Q 3 6 B-K 3	STEINITZ. <i>Black.</i> P-K 4 Q Kt-B 3 B-B 4 P-Q 3 Kt-B 3 B x B
---	---

This exchange is strategically inferior, as White's consequent cluster of Pawns strengthens the centre.

7 P x B Kt-Q R 4
8 B-Kt 3 Kt x B
Evidently playing for another "novelty."
9 P x Kt Kt-Kt 5

Premature, but Mr. Steinitz has a little plot in view.

10 Q-K 2 P-K B 3
11 P-Q 4 P-B 3
Steinitz's extraordinary ingenuity now shows itself. Notwithstanding the exchanges he has managed to get a bad position as early as the eleventh move.

12 Castles Q R Q-K 2
13 P-K R 3 Kt-R 3
14 P-K Kt 4

An admirable push. Lasker now gives his immediate attention to weakening Black's King's side.

15 K Kt-R 4 To hinder Kt-B 5. 16 Kt-B 3 17 Q R-Kt sq 18 P-Kt 4 19 Q-B 2	Kt-B 2 Castles Q R K-Kt sq Q R-B sq
--	--

Black's primary weak point is the King's Bishop's Pawn. Lasker delicately touches him up there, with a side eye to the Queen's side.

20 Q-Kt 3 21 R-B sq 22 K R-Kt sq 23 R-B 2 24 K R-B sq 25 Kt-K R 4 26 P-Kt 5	P-K R 3 Kt-Q sq Kt-K 3 Kt-B 2 Q R-Kt sq K-K sq K-R sq
---	---

Having massed his forces on the King's side the veteran is suddenly called to prepare himself for the other side, on which the real battle now begins.

27 P x P 28 Kt-B 3 29 R-Kt 2	P x P P-Kt 4 P-K R 4
------------------------------------	----------------------------

Lost time; the open Rook's file that he secures does him no good.

30 P-Kt 3 31 K-Kt 2 32 Q-B 2 33 R-Q R sq 34 Q-K 2 35 R (Kt 2)-Kt sq 36 R (R sq)-Q sq	R-R 3 Double Rooks Kt-B 2 R-Q Kt sq R-Kt 2 R-R sq P x P
--	---

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OLD BOOKS

Send Stamp for List. Address A. J. CRAWFORD, 312 N. 7th Street, St. Louis, Mo.

37 P x P 38 Q-Q 3 39 Kt-Q 2 40 K Kt-Kt sq 41 Kt-R 4 42 K-B sq 43 R-Kt 2 44 K Kt-B 3 45 P-Q 5	R-Q B sq B-K 3 Kt-Kt 4 K R-B 2 R-B sq K R-Q Kt sq R-Q 2 Kt-B 2
--	---

He should take the Knight instead.
The grand final break for which White has long been preparing:

46 P x P 47 Q-B 4 48 K-Kt 2	45 P x P B-Kt sq R-Q B sq
-----------------------------------	---------------------------------

Here Steinitz forfeited the game, but it was afterward played out as follows by mutual consent

49 P-K 4 50 R-B 2 51 Double Rooks 52 R x P 53 R x R 54 Q x Kt 55 Q-B 5 ch 56 Kt-Kt 5 57 Q x P ch 58 Q-B 6 ch and wins.	48 R-Q Kt sq Q R-Q sq R-K B sq B-R 2 R x R Q x R Q-R sq R-R sq K moves K-B sq
---	--

Current Events.

Monday, December 28.

It is announced that the Venezuela boundary dispute is settled so far as the United States is concerned, the arbitration agreement having been accepted by the Venezuelan Government. . . . Tariff hearings by the ways and means committee of the House of Representatives begin in Washington. . . . Senator Wolcott, after a call on Mr. McKinley, says the new President will take action looking to an international monetary conference. . . . The receivership suit of the State of Kansas against the Santa Fe Railroad is dismissed. . . . Bank failures: Scandia, Minneapolis, Minn.; Bank of Superior, in Superior, Wis. . . . Conventions: American Economic Association, Baltimore; Federation of Commercial Teachers, Chicago; Ohio Miners, Columbus. . . . Leander Bosch, paying-teller of the suspended Bank of Minnesota, disappears. . . . Jules Sangulilly, the naturalized American citizen charged in Havana with conspiracy against the Spanish Government, is sentenced to imprisonment for life; appeal to Madrid will be taken. . . . A landslide in County Kerry, Ireland, demolishes a house of Lord Kenmare's steward, burying its inmates.

Tuesday, December 29.

It is stated that President Cleveland has been repeatedly assured by Spain that reforms will be inaugurated in Cuba when the province of Pinar del Rio has been pacified. . . . Bank failures: Commercial National, Roanoke, Va.; Columbia National, and Washington, Minneapolis, Minn. . . . Conventions: American Folk-Lore Society, New York; American Historical Association, New York; Southern Educational Society, Mobile, Ala. . . . The President includes classified employees of government penitentiaries in the civil service. . . . The tariff hearing is devoted to cotton and silk schedules.

The *Daily News* of London says that Spain is carrying on negotiations with the United States in an underhanded manner. . . . Gladstone celebrates his eighty-eighth birthday in Hawarden Castle. . . . In addressing representatives of the old Pontifical army, yesterday, the Pope declared that the Papacy would finally triumph. . . . The Roman Catholic bishops of the province of Quebec having condemned *L'Electeur*, a newspaper published in the city of Quebec, the owner of the paper has decided to suspend the publication, but will appeal to Rome; the paper's offense, it is said, was the publication of a pamphlet denying the right of the bishops to dictate to electors in political matters.

Wednesday, December 30.

The sugar schedule is considered at the tariff hearing. . . . Bank failures: Banker's Exchange Bank, Minneapolis, Minn.; Commercial, Selena, Ala. . . . General G. W. C. Lee is elected emeritus president of Washington and Lee University.

Considerable criticism of General Weyler is current in political and military circles at Madrid. . . . In a Quebec court the Roman Catholic bishop of Three Rivers and his chancellor refuse to answer any questions regarding clerical influence in elections, "saying they were independent of civil tribunals."

Thursday, December 31.

The lumber and paper schedules are considered at the tariff hearing by the ways and means committee. . . . Governor Morton removes Inspector-General McLewee for criticizing him and his staff. . . . Contracts are signed at the Japanese Legation in Washington with the Cramps and the Union Iron Works for the construction of two cruisers for the Japanese navy. . . . President Cleveland issues a proclamation fixing July 1 as the date when the new regulations for preventing collisions at sea are to go into effect. . . . Eugene V. Debs declares himself a Socialist. . . . J. B. McCullagh, editor of *The St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, commits suicide. . . . The Second National Bank of Grand Forks, N. Dak., suspends.

Spain grants reforms for Porto Rico, which are to go into effect immediately. . . . The issues of the *Imparcial* and *Heraldo*, newspapers, are seized in Madrid for publishing articles condemning the military administration in Cuba, and demanding the recall of General Weyler. . . . There was a voluntary dissolution of the Produce Exchange in Berlin, as a protest against the new law forbidding dealings in futures. Several other exchanges in different parts of Germany also dissolve. . . . The will of Alfred Nobel, the Swedish engineer and chemist, devotes the bulk of his fortune to an international fund for the advancement of science, with prizes for competition open to the world. . . . The *Cape Times* publishes the story of an alleged attempt on the part of the Germans of the Transvaal to wreck Cecil Rhodes's train.

Friday, January 1.

President and Mrs. Cleveland hold their annual New Year's reception at the White House. . . . Frank S. Black is inaugurated governor of New York; Hazen S. Pingree, governor of Michigan. . . . Suit is begun in the United States circuit court at Topeka for the dissolution of the Kansas City Live-Stock Exchange, which, it is charged, is operated so as to restrain trade and in violation of the anti-trust laws.

The Spanish Government will not allow the objectionable articles published by the *Heraldo* and *Imparcial* to be transmitted by telegraph. . . . It is asserted that a ministerial crisis is probable in Spain as a result of a change of policy; it is rumored that the Cabinet has approved the proposal to recall Captain-General Weyler, but that Premier Canovas has delayed action on the matter. . . . King Humbert, of Italy, is ill, and the New Year's reception was postponed.

Saturday, January 2.

The flax, hemp, and jute schedule is considered at the tariff hearing. . . . Thomas Bram is convicted in Boston of the murder on the high seas of Captain Nash, of the barkentine *Herbert Fuller*. . . . The body of W. A. Hammond, second vice-president of the National Bank of Illinois, suicide, was found in the lake at Chicago. . . . Bank failures: Omaha Savings, Omaha, Neb.; Citizens' National, Fargo, N. Dak.; White Hall, Mich.; Savings; Sullivan Savings, Claremont, N. H. . . . The United States Treasury debt statement shows a net decrease in the public debt, less cash in the treasury, during December, of \$2,839,577; total cash in the treasury, \$853,463,551. . . . Senator Wolcott sails for England to confer with European bimetalists as to the prospects for an international conference. . . . Heavy rain and snow storms are reported from Missouri, Arkansas, and Kansas. . . . The Cuban filibuster steamer *Commodore* is sunk.

The Czar is said to be about to establish a supreme court in Russia, in order to relieve himself of the less important affairs of state. . . . Business is practically suspended in London on account of the dense fog, and many accidents occur. . . . A special ministerial council is held in Berlin to consider the opposition made by the exchanges to the new Bourse law.

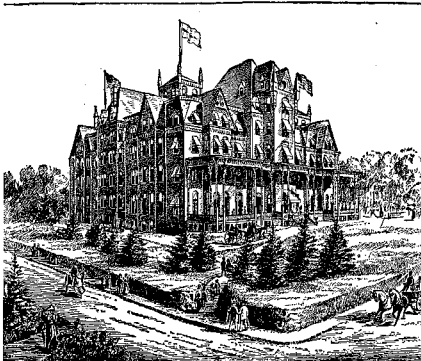
Sunday, January 3.

A blizzard rages in Minnesota and the Dakotas. . . . Two thousand miners in the Massillon, Ohio district, are on strike. . . . It is reported that 3,500 employees of the Illinois Steel Company, South Chicago, have been notified that wages will be cut February 1.

Elections for one-third of the members of the French Senate take place in France; Republicans gain three seats. . . . It is said that Russia has tried to raise a loan of 600,000,000 marks in Paris.



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